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JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS, 1860-1865

#5060-z

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Joseph S. Reynolds Papers, 1860-1865.

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Inventory of the Joseph S. Reynolds Papers, 1860-1865

Collection Number 5060-z

Manuscripts Department, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Collection Information

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- ⊡ Administrative Information
- ⊡ Online Catalog Headings
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Descriptive Summary

Repository
Southern Historical Collection

Creator
Reynolds, Joseph S. (Joseph Smith), 1839-1911.

Title
Joseph S. Reynolds Papers, 1860-1865

Call Number
5060-z

Language of Materials
Materials in English

Extent

Items: About 50

Abstract

Joseph S. Reynolds was a Chicago high school graduate who enlisted in the Union Army at age 23 in October 1861. He was an officer of the 64th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Yates Sharpshooters, taking part in 17 battles, including Sherman's March to the Sea. He was mustered out on 16 July 1865. The collection consists chiefly of letters written by Joseph S. Reynolds to his family in Illinois during his Civil War service. Most letters are addressed to his siblings. They chronicle the movements of the 64th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Yates Sharpshooters from the battle of New Madrid, Mo., to camps and battles in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. They provide details about troop movements, military life, Reynolds's health, and the countryside. On occasion, Reynolds mentioned African Americans in stereotypical ways. In an 1862 letter, he explained why the accounts of troop actions in Chicago newspapers were often wrong. On 10 November 1864, Reynolds wrote about Sherman's March to the Sea, and, on 26 April 1865, he discussed the meeting of generals William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnson and his belief that Confederate leaders should be punished and not pardoned. Also included are three letters to Reynolds, 1860-1861, two of which are about the difficulty of raising a military company; an ambrotype of Reynolds and photographic copy; and an unused gutta-percha case.

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Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access

No restrictions.

Alternate Form of Material

Microfilm copy (filmed May 2005) available.

Reel 1: Entire collection

Alternate Form of Material

Typed transcriptions, as received from donor, are provided.

Acquisitions Information

Received from Marie Weiden of Chapel Hill, N.C., in 2001 (Acc. 98974).

Processing Information

Processed by: Kristin Soya, October 2001

Encoded by: Kristin Soya, October 2001

Revisions: Finding aid updated in May 2005 by Nancy Kaiser.

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Online Catalog Headings

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

African Americans--History--19th century.
Confederate States of America--Social conditions.
Family--Illinois--Social life and customs.
Gutta-percha.
Illinois--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Reynolds, Joseph S. (Joseph Smith), 1839-1911.
Sherman's March to the Sea--Personal narratives.
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 64th (1861-1865)
United States. Army. Yates Sharpshooters.
United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States. Army--Military life--History.
United States. Army--Officers--Correspondence.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Military life.

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Biographical Note

Joseph Smith Reynolds was born in New Lenox, Ill., on 3 December 1839. He enlisted in the Union Army on 19 October 1861 and was commissioned second lieutenant on 31 December 1861. He was promoted to first lieutenant on 9 April 1862, captain on 24 November 1863, major on 9 April 1865, and lieutenant colonel on 21 May 1865. Reynolds was in active service for nearly four years. With the 64th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Yates Sharpshooters, he fought in 17 Civil War battles, was wounded three times, and took part in Sherman's March to the Sea. On 16 July 1865, he was mustered out.

After the war, Reynolds took a law degree from the University of Chicago and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He served in the Illinois state House of Representatives, 1867-1869, and in the state Senate, 1872-1874. In 1874, he served on a commission to establish a state school for mentally retarded children. On 31 January 1877, he married Mattie A. Gray, who died in 1890. When Reynolds died in 1911, he was living in Pasadena, Calif.

(Note derived from appraisal letters of John Sharpe, CPRM, Inc. See also *Who was Who in America I,* 1899-1900; *Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, v. 277; Mark Mayo Boatner III, *The Civil War Dictionary*, p. 695.)

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Collection Overview

The collection is chiefly letters written by Joseph S. Reynolds to his family in Illinois during his service in the Civil War as a Union officer. Most letters are addressed to his sisters, Lottie, Hattie, and Sarah, or his brothers Charles, John, Willie, and Isaac. These letters cover four years, 1861-1865, and chronicle the movement of the 64th Illinois Infantry Regiment and Yates Sharpshooters from the battle of New Madrid, Mo.; to Camp Yates, Camp Big Springs, and Camp Clear Creek in Mississippi; to Pulaski, Tenn.; to Decatur, Ala.; to Dallas, Ga., and Marietta, Ga.; through Atlanta, Ga., to Savannah, Ga.; to Pocotaligo, S.C.; and finally to Raleigh, N.C. They provide details about troop movements, military life, Reynolds's health, and the countryside. On occasion, Reynolds mentioned African Americans in stereotypical ways. In an 1862 letter, he explained why the accounts of troop actions in Chicago, Ill., newspapers were often wrong. On 10 November 1864, Reynolds wrote about Sherman's March to the Sea, and, on 26 April 1865, he discussed the meeting of generals William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnson and his belief that Confederate leaders should be punished and not pardoned.

Also included are three letters to Reynolds, 1860-1861, two of which are about the difficulty of raising a military company; an ambrotype of Reynolds and photographic copy; and an unused gutta-percha case.

Typed transcriptions, as received from donor, are provided.

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Items Separated

Ambrotype (SF-P-5060/1)
Photograph (P-5060/1)
Gutta-percha case (MU-5060/1)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Papers, 1860-1865.
About 50 items.

Arrangement: chronological.

Folder 1
1860-1861
Folder 2-3
1862
Folder 4
1863
Folder 5
1864-1865
Folder 6

1.5 mm

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abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890

PM-MGP
METRIC GENERAL PURPOSE TARGET
PHOTOGRAPHIC

200 mm

150 mm

100 mm

A5

A4

A3

1.0 mm

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2.0 mm

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4.5 mm

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

1860-1861

Folder 1 of 6

Ypsilanti Dec 28th 1860

Dear Brother Joseph

Received your welcome letter last night I have just got back from the depot where I was helping Mr Hallock weigh some hogs There was several barrels of cider there and Hallock made a hole in one of the barrels so I got all the clarified cider I could drink I had a nother sleighride to day but it was not with the girl but it was with her Father so it done just as well we went out six miles, Hendley is mending his breeches whenever he pricks his fingers he will make up an offal looking face and say he ought to have a woman and then he will say he'll be blamed if he dont beg and get one for he says he cannot stand it more than one year and if he dont have one in less than a year it will not be his fault He says golly it must be a miserable thing to be an old bacachelor I expect Hendley has told you all the news in his letter I will write you a letter after New years and let you of know what fine time I have through vacation We are well Write soon

From your Brother

John H. Reynolds

Army Letters

1861 1865

Chicago Oct 9. 1861

Friend Reynolds,

Dear Sir My prospects were very flattering for getting recruits in the Country where I went the same night of my return from Head Quarters (Camp Lenox) I had started off with buoyant happy heart at my good success & at the encouragement I received from friends as they said they would go with me as soon as with any one they knew of So I returned to Chicago Monday night to collect a note of $170.00 which I had against a Gentleman in town & judge of my surprise when I found he had enlisted and gone off to St Louis and had made no arrangements for paying it So I shall have to give up the idea of raising this Company which I hate to do I assure you I should like to hear from or see you soon I will be at

the Richmond House at
Meal times or at 138 Edina Place
at other times

Respectfully Yours
W. L. Carpenter

Jos. S. Reynolds Esq

New Lenox

Adj't 54 Reg I.S.V.

Yates Guards

L. Simon

adjutant in the

5th Bataillon

Chasseurs de Vincennes

from 1852 to 1856

Mokena, Nov. 8./61.

J. J. Reynolds, Esq.

Sir!

I have received a letter from L. Simons yesterday. — He says, that he can get plenty of men, but not without money. — It would be best, if you could come up here by 1. o'clock today, so that I could write to Mr. Simon by this evening mail. He says, that if he does not get an answer right off, he will join a Company in New York, where he is offered a Captaincy.

Come or answer immidiately

& oblige

Yours Geo. Bez.

34 men on 2nd of Nov
Left Chicago 26 Oct

Free.
G. Rez. P. M.

Jos. S. Reynolds, Esq.

Tracy,

Lee.

Important!
Deliver in haste!

186 William St N.Y.
D. Solomon & Co
J P L Simon
Cor of Health Wynkoop & Co
63 Liberty St

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

1862: Feb.-June

Folder 2 of 6

Quincy Feby 2nd 1862

Sista Hattie,

I was right glad to hear from you. I dont write very often and a good many to write to. I will write to you as often as you will to me. I have been well since I left home, and like soldiering as well as ever. I have heard that Ralph Marshall wants to come down. I wish he would. We have one hundred and one men now but would discharge a poor man in order to get a good one. My visit home was too short to suit me but it could not be helped. I had a good, time short as it was.

But Hattie, I have something good to tell you. Last Thursday evening Our Whole Battalion was marched up town to partake of a nice Supper. The "Needle Pickets," an association of the patriotic women of Quincy, got up the supper in the City Hall. It was a mighty nice one too. One long table extended the whole length of the hall and was covered with every thing good to eat. About two hundred ladies were stationed on each side of the table, and the "boys" took their positions, in four ranks, next to the walls. The way the young ladies did trip around among the boys with coffee and every thing nice to eat was a caution.

After supper the ladies insisted the Commissioned Officers to stop awhile. So we did and sent the companies to their Quarters in charge of the Orderly Sergeants. And a good time we had too.

I did not go to Church this morning but am going to-night. There is one of the best Preachers here that I ever heard. Sixty of the sharpshooters go over the River, to Mo. Every day to guard West Quincy. Secesh are skulking about all the while. Several have been caught. It is my turn to go over to-morrow and the Colonel has promissed me that I might take eighty men. I will leave forty to guard the town and the other forty I will take and visit a secesh neighborhood ten miles from here. The Colonel agrees to it. Write often

Yours Brother J. S. Reynolds

Quincy Feb'y 16th /62

Dear Father,

I have already put off writing to you so long that I am almost ashamed now to write. But when I write home it is to all alike — Father, Mother, Brother & Sister — Last night the Colonel received orders from General Fuller to prepare at once to march. To day another order came for us to be ready to move next Tuesday morning. It has not seemed much like sunday to-day. Every man in the Battalion was hurrying to & fro. Some looked sad and wished themselves at home again — other were joyous and pleased at the ide of going to work in earnest. I am among the latter, every time. We are just now ready to move — being pretty well drilled and splendidly armed.

We have every thing now that we could be asked for — Clothing, Blankets, Rifles, Sword-Bayonets, Knapsacks, Haversacks, Canteens, Cartridge-Boxes, Cap-boxes, and belts. — all that a soldier can use. Not exactly! I forgot. We have not yet got a cent of pay. That we ask for and could use or find use for it by sending it home. We may get it to morrow, but if we don't we will not get it till about the tenth of March.

We cannot tell certain where we will go but it is almost certain that we will go to Ky and thence to East Tennessee. I hope we will go there. The Twentieth Ills Regiment is going there too. It is now near Fort Donelson. I have been over in Mo several times on picket duty. I generally had from forty to fifty men with two sergeants and four corporals. Last Wednesday when we were out one of the sergeans brought to me three young Ladies as "prisoners of war." The Ladies were the daughters of a Missouri farmer, and annoyed the boys with huzzahs for Jeff Davies and the displaying of a sacsh flag. The girls said they were union every time, and only acted as they did to see what Uncle Sam's boys would do. They promised very solemnly to never again hurrah for Jeff. but for old Abe and wave the Stars & Stripes. So I sent the girls home to their mama, and kept the sacsh flag. I guess they were union, for when the boys took the girls back their father gave them their haversacks full of apples.

I like soldiering every day better. I now weigh a hundred and sixty two lbs, when I left school I weighed a hundred and twenty eight. You see by this it agrees with me. A good many of the boys have had the measles and mumps, but they are all getting well fast. One of our Company has died — Mr Curtis of Wilmington. I have not heard from Abram since I was up. He ought to write I think. Letters directed to Quincy will follow us. Tell all the folks to write.

From Your Son

Jos S Reynolds

Cairo Feby 20th /62.

Dear Brother,

I just got your letter directed to me at Quincy. I followed me without any delay. We are bound for he was now in earnest. We left Quincy Monday afternoon and arrived here Wednesday forenoon (yesterday). When we arrived here it was raining very hard and the mud is a foot deep or more. Cairo is just now an awful place all mud and water. There is a good deal to be seen here. The prisoners taken at Fort Donelson were here yesterday on vessels. I went on some of the vessels and had a talk with the secesh. A motley crew were they certain - some dandies - doctors, & divines - some whites, some half white and some no white at all

No two were dressed alike. Some had overcoats some shawls, some carpets, some bed quilts, some old dress skirts, and almost every thing for overcoats. Some were damning Jeff Davies and his Generals. Some were damning Lincoln and the abolitionists, some singing secesh songs, some union songs. But with all, they looked as though they had rather fight than eat. So they say, too. It is only the steady regularity and coolness of our troops that enables them to overcome the enemy.

We expect to leave here this afternoon for Fort Denelson and where then we can't tell. We will go and resist. They think here that Fort Denelson will be attacked by the enemy, soon, under Beauregard. If it is we will be in the fight. No more time now.

While soon of your brother

J B Reynolds

Camp Yates March 6th 1862

Sister [illegible],

[illegible] the [illegible] which [illegible]. Camp Yates is four miles down the River from New Madrid [illegible] between N. M. and Point Pleasant. The Battalion is here [illegible]. It came here the Sixteenth but I was not well enough to go with it so I remained at N. M. till the twenty-fourth when I joined the Bat again. I caught a very hard cold and it settled on my lungs. The Doctor was very attentive else I would have had the lung fever. I am now entirely well and feeling finely. I said the Bat was all that is here. That's wrong. There is two thirty two pound Cannon stationed on the Bank of the River not forty yards from my tent. Thirty artillery men, from the regular army, are here to man the guns. The River here is two miles wide and the Cannon we have here will throw a ball or shell into the woods beyond the River. The Cannon were taken at New Madrid. Yesterday the Rebels seemed to be very busy on the other side of the River and it was soon seen that they were planting a Battery of six guns on the Bank. Our guns opened fire and after they had fired twenty two rounds no men or Cannon could be seen. A house that stood about half a mile back from the River was hit twice and two large holes were plainly seen at the same time too, men were seen hastening from the house into the woods. We have a good view of the River about two miles above N. M. and also down to Pt Pleasant. Men with telescopes

are at all times on [illegible] the right [illegible]
crosses the River and the [illegible] going on beyond
the [illegible].

[illegible] is you would like to have [illegible] Camp of this is. It's a mighty pleasant place. The River bank is now as high as is the River, about twenty feet above the water and the land is high and dry. Cattle is are picked on a fine range in the woods and on the sand bars—open and fenced. The house, or rather houses. There are three of them, is made of logs split, two stories high and comfortable. The owner is a secesh and had fourteen negros. all but two he took with him when he fled southward those he left behind took care of things on the plantation. He is taking care of things on the plantation and the negros are carrying it on. There is several thousand bushels of white corn on the plantation. Some hundred sacks of shelled corn are on the bank ready for loading on boats. A corn mill is close by so we have plenty of meal. The soil is sandy mixed with red clay. Under the peach trees the ground is covered with peach seeds. the negros tell us that peaches have sold for ten cts a bushel during the proper season. and apples almost as cheap. Now however there are no apples here. Gen. Pillow was (from) at New Madrid last fall three months with fifty thousand men and they took every apple that could be found. Right in front of my tent is one apple tree as large as any in Whole Dixon's orchard. It looks like a forest tree. The peach trees here, too, are as large as the apple trees.

We live well here. Every day the boys bring in several turkeys geese and chickens. They have brought in some wild turkeys. The others they get on plantations that are deserted by their secesh owners.

I have seen here more [illegible] destruction of property than there was at New Madrid. It was as pleasant a town of perhaps eight hundred or a thousand inhabitants as I ever saw. It is situated, as you can see on the map, on the bend of the River on the convex bank. The houses were mostly one and a half story, frame and painted white. Each house was a block large. In almost every case the lots were thickly planted with almost every variety of fruit-trees. Out a short distance from the town are quite a number of beautiful residence fixed off according to the most refined southern style. Most of these are deserted by their secesh owners. What now of New Madrid and its once brisk trade and happy people? One of the rebel forts is in the South west and the other in South East part of the town. The Union force you know was back of the town and in order that their (the secesh) cannon might have a clear range at us they burned and pulled down at least half the houses in the town and every fence that ran east and west. It [illegible] counted twenty six fine large orchards with giant trees between the forts and our line that were cut down to the ground, also about eight acres of heavy forest trees that came close to the town on the east. Not a person besides a few soldiers and now and then a lonely negro, was [illegible] among the ruins apparently bewildered, could be seen in the town for several days after its evacuation. Though Coffee was one dollar per lb and salt eight dollars per sack of twenty five lbs before we came now the inhabitants about here cannot get them at any price except as they get them from the Soldiers. You see I fill my letters full. It stands a person here in hand to do so I not write of love as a thimble stamp here costs ten cts and sometimes a shilling. I get three three cents on this envelop for a dime. Direct to Cairo yet. Yours [illegible] Ther [illegible]

Dear Sallie,

Perhaps you have read in history an account of New Madrid. I have in both. It was founded in 1787 three years after St Louis was founded and was a place of much more importance till 1804 when the bank commenced washing away so fast that it was evident that no great improvement could be made near the river without its early destruction. The numerous earthquakes in 1812 totally submerged the town and it was not till several years after that any improvement was made. Had it been situated on a more stable bank & had it not been for the earthquakes that visited this section in 1812, New Madrid would now I believe have been a place of as much importance (perhaps more) as is St Louis

New Madrid is certainly an unfortunate town. This being the third time that it has been desolated – in 1804, in 1812 and in 1862. If you wish to read of this town you can find some account of it in a work called "Book of the United States". It was published some twenty five years ago by Granville Mellen, I think. Other works on the United States speak of it. and Gilmore Simms the noted Southern writer mentions it several of his works of fiction. I forgot to mention this in the body of my letter so I append it here.

Write soon and often and all the news.

Your Brother W. Reynolds

Bertrand, New Madrid Co. Mo
March 7th /62

Sister Lottie,

We are bound for Dixie. We are in Secesh but not in Dixie. Night before last we encamped at Charleston, Mississippi Co. ten miles from the River and yesterday marched to this place. You remember the fight they had last Summer at Charleston when our troops whipped the rebles. I never before saw as pretty a town as Charleston. For miles and miles around is heavy timber. The town is situated in a little prairie about four miles in diameter. The Houses most all one Story, & white. Before the fight its population was about fifteen hundred and now there are but eight families, in all Thirty six persons — all the rest were secesh and have gone to Arkansas, which is only thirty miles from here. Our Battalion selected the best rooms for quarters. Lieut Baker and myself picked out a nice little Parlor with Chairs and fire place. Bertrand is a small railroad town and every family is secesh and are prisoners. The 51 Ills the 10 Iowa 16 Ills 31 Ills 8th Mo and a squadron of Cavalry are here now. To day and tomorrow five other Regiments will assemble when we will move on to New Madrid. Jeff Thompson. the Spies say is between here and New Madrid.

Camp Yates April 1st /62

Sister Hattie,

It has been some time since I wrote home, and it's been almost as long since I've heard from there. You never saw so pleasant a place as is this where we are encamped. It is just in the edge of a large forest and right on the bank of the Mississippi. The peach trees are in full bloom, the ground is green, and many of the forest trees are already leaved out. The weather is warm, pleasant as any may day I ever saw. It is healthy here too. My health was never better, and that of the Battalion was never before, since it's organization, so good. But one thing is peculiar about our situation and, Hattie, I dont think you would fancy that. Right across the River, in plain sight, is a large force of the enemy and they are continually trying to erect batteries on the shore to shell us. Not a night, hardly, passes but what they try to throw up a breast work to protect their guns but our watch guard discovers them and a few shell from our guns send them back into the woods. Though the River here is almost two miles wide yet in the night when every thing is quiet on this side we can hear every thing that's going on, on the other bank. We can hear the men talk — the officers giving commands the men at work chopping, digging, and driving teams. The water conveys the sound. A few nights since I was officer of the night-watch-guard and lay most all night on the shore close to the water. At about twelve I was satisfied that I had discovered the rebels at work throwing up a breast work. I informed the commander of the fort of the fact and pointed out the place to him as near as possible. He ranged two of his thirty two bound guns. Eight rounds of shell were quickly fired and again every thing became silent. I again resumed my place by the River but could hear nothing now, except the occasional call of men, who appeared to me much like frightened quails. There is not an hour in the day or night but what we hear cannon roaring. Last night about nine oclock the mortar boats opened again on island no ten. No cannon makes half the noise that a mortar does. Though we are five miles from the island when the mortars are fired the earth here shakes distinctly. The sight last night was beautiful while the mortars were firing. We could distinctly see the flash then the shell lighted by its burning fuse and describing in its course a perfect semicircle like a rainbow. Some times there would be five or six shells in the air at once, all apparently traveling

P.S. I have just received your letter mailed the 28th you did not much news. Perhaps there was not much to write. I was however very glad to get it and the pieces you cut out the Tribune. Sam Raymond did not do justice to the S.S. in his letter for their main fighting was done the night before the guns opened upon the town.

the same path. Then there is the two forts at New Madrid, of twenty heavy guns, which are five miles from here, then fort Yates of three guns, one sixty four pounder, then fort Pope of four guns which is right here, and there are two batteries between here and Point Pleasant and one at that place which is four miles from here. All these batteries are firing more or less every day at the enemy across the River or at boats or small crafts trying to run the blockade. General Pope was here yesterday. He said that just as soon as our gunboats and transports arrived here he would land fifteen thousand men on the other side of the River. We are anxious to see our boats down here, for we want to get across the River and put the impudent Rebels to flight.

The boundry line between Ky and Tennessee terminates opposite of us on the other side of the river, so we stand on Mo soil and look into Ky & Tennessee while Arkansas is only twenty miles westward. Hattie, how would you like to take a ride out west from here in the forest. Out there but a few miles are Bears, Elks, Wolves and Rebels and Wild Turkeys. Our boys have killed quite a number of the Turkeys. The Bears Elks and wolves we care but little about as they are not good to eat. And the Rebels go in too small squads to be profitable to hunt. The boys are now not so much afraid of the rebels as they were before the New Madrid fight. Our Battalion was the nearest to the enemy there for about twenty four hours but as they were deployed according to sharp shooter style the enemys ball and shell had plenty of room to pass between. The sharp Shooters killed several of the enemy but were themselves only one now and then slightly wounded. We like our way of fighting and have a gun that will shoot like a little cannon. They will carry a ball across the River here a distance of almost two miles. I would like to be at home a few days and see the folks. None of you write how Charley is, how Pa and ma are, how every thing or any thing is getting along. When I send a letter home I consider it as going to all and I ought to get half a dozen whenever I write one. Tell John especially to write and write all the news about the Point. I'de give a negro to get a letter from Willie and another one for one from Isaac. I wish Father would write & mother too. I have got no pay yet. Uncle Sam owes me five hundred and seventy two dollars, to-day. It will come sometime but I cant tell when. I dont think I'll be home before the first of July. Write soon

Your Brother J.S. Reynolds

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the night before the guns opened upon the town.

the same path. Then there is the two forts at New Madrid, of twenty heavy guns, which are five miles from here, - then fort Yates of three guns, one sixty four pounder, - then fort Pope of four guns which is right here, and there are two batteries between here and Point Pleasant and one at that place which is four miles from here. All these batteries are firing more or less every day at the enemy across the River or at boats or small crafts trying to run the blockade. General Pope was here yesterday. He said that just as soon as our gunboats and transports arrived here he would land fifteen thousand men on the other side of the River. We are anxious to see our boats down here, for we want to get across the River and put the impudent Rebels to flight.

The boundry line between Ky and Tennessee terminates opposite of us on the other side of the river, so we stand on Mo soil and look into Ky & Tennessee while Arkansas is only twenty miles westward. Hattie, how would you like to take a ride out west from here in the forest. Out there but a few miles are Bears, Elks, Wolves and Rebels and Wild Turkeys. Our boys have killed quite a number of the Turkeys. The Bears Elks and wolves we care but little about as they are not good to eat. And the Rebels go in too small squads to be profitable to hunt. The boys are now not so much afraid of the rebels as they were before the New Madrid fight. Our Battalion was the nearest to the enemy there for about twenty four hours but as they were deployed according to sharp shooter style the enemys ball and shell had plenty of room to pass between. The sharp Shooters killed several of the enemy but were themselves only one now and then slightly wounded. We like our way of fighting and have a gun that will shoot like a little cannon. They will carry a ball across the River here a distance of almost two miles. I would like to be at home a few days and see the folks. None of you write how Charley is, how Pa and ma are, how every thing or any thing is getting along. When I send a letter home I consider it as going to all and I ought to get half a dozen whenever I write one. Tell John especially to write and write all the news about the Point. I'de give a negro to get a letter from Willie and another one for one from Isaac. I wish Father would write & mother too. I have got no pay yet. Uncle Sam owes me five hundred and seventy two dollars, to-day. It will come sometime but I cant tell when. I dont think I'll be home before the first of July. Write soon

Your Brother J.S. Reynolds

In Camp one and a half mile below Camp Yates, Mo., April 2nd, 1862

Sister [illegible],

I have not [illegible] yet time [illegible] the [illegible] few days. The [illegible] and then yesterday [illegible] news but [illegible] writing [illegible] papers [illegible] Amongst all the news those papers contained [illegible] one item [illegible] that Allen [illegible] the City [illegible], and the [illegible] resolutions.

I got [illegible] just [illegible] I [illegible] with paper in hand and [illegible] two [illegible] than [illegible] companies [illegible] at once [illegible] to the [illegible], which is one mile and a [illegible] miles, of which [illegible] the [illegible] march, Major Mattison in command. [illegible] we are [illegible] in every respect [illegible] Camp Yates. It is just in the edge of a large [illegible] are [illegible] the [illegible] there are [illegible] the ground is [illegible], and many of the [illegible] trees are already [illegible] out. The weather is [illegible] I ever saw. It is healthy here too, [illegible] and that of the battalion was never before, since its organization, so good. But one thing [illegible] and, [illegible], I don't believe you [illegible] fancy that. [illegible] the enemy [illegible] a small squads [illegible] times [illegible] pickets. Yesterday William Shed (You [illegible] Father's [illegible]) and two others went out [illegible] miles after [illegible] turkeys and while going through an open [illegible] they were fired upon from the thick brush. They thought [illegible] not to [illegible] in the [illegible] and beat an hasty retreat. [illegible] by the [illegible]

On board the Dan'l Taylor
Apl 17th 1862

We have taken to rowing. At two o'clock in the morning of the 13th of April three companies of the S.S. with over twenty thousand troops left Fort Madrid for down the Mississippi River. Eight gun and four mortar-boats led the expedition and followed by twenty five large Transports heavy loaded with men, Cannon, horses, mules, and provision. At day break I made my way to the upper deck to see what was to be seen. On ahead about three miles from the Polar Star the leading Transport were the Gun boats, two abreast, closely followed by the Mortar Boats and all steadily making their way to the heart of Secessia. The Transports followed one after another and about a quarter of a mile apart.

The sight was indeed pleasing to me as well as indicative. The Fleet advanced in this way till the leading transport was just opposite Hale's Landing and the Gunboats were out of sight round the Great Bend when heavy firing was heard through the point of timber in the direction of our Gunboats. Immediately the leading transport came to land on the Tennessee side and was followed by all the others as they came up. The firing was kept up over half an hour very briskly when it ceased. An express boat then soon came round the point and reported that our boats were met by seven Rebel Gunboats and that the latter were sent crippled down the current. After a delay of two hours the fleet moved on slowly. It reached the Bend at Osceola about two P.M. Here the Chickasaw Bluffs came in sight and on them we could see the encampments of the enemy and the tiers were large guns overlooking the river. About a mile below Osceola the whole fleet came to land. On both sides of the River scouts were started out but they could go but a short distance on account of the swamps. The number and situation of the enemy was unknown to Gen Sherman. These he must know before going further so he concluded to get some of the inhabitants aboard and question them. Gen Sherman sent for Com. Foote, Gen Blair, Gen Hamilton and Gen Stanley to come aboard his vessel. Then his boat came along side our boat when the three Companies of S.S. men ordered to put on their armament and pass over to his boat. When we had

P.S. I can get no ink good for anything, so be pleased when you get this.

In Camp five miles from Corinth
May 11th 1862

Sister Lottie,

I see if I don't write I will get no letters. It is almost impossible to get a chance to write here now. Ever since we landed here there has not been twenty four hours at a time that we have been off duty. We have been and are now the advance of Gen Popes forces, and every time Gen Pope has made an advance the Yates Sharp Shooters took the lead and did the fighting, and every time the enemy has advanced they have gone forward to check their progress. We were in four skermishes previous to the third (of May) when we were in a regular battle where Gen Paine said the S.S. killed more rebels than did any regiment at the Battle of Shiloh. The Chicago Papers attempted to give an account of the engagement, but they did not get the first item correct. The reporters are not allowed this side of Gen Popes quarters and the accounts they send back are not one in fifty correct. You know very little what is going on here. So do the Papers there. At ten o'clock on the morning of the third The whole of Gen Popes forces was ordered to move forward. The S.S. as usual were in the advance as skermishers and they were supported on the right by the tenth & sixteenth Ills and on the left by the tenth & fourteenth Mich

and these Regiments in turn were supported by the remainder of Gen. Pope's force. In this way we advanced very cautiously about an hour when in the middle of a cotton field the enemy opened a severe fire upon us. There fellows were in the brush in the edge of the big swamp. This swamp is a mile and a half wide and is thickly covered with underbrush and trees. The moment they fired on us and before they could retreat the whole line of skirmishers dashed forward and did not fire till we were right on the enemy. At our first fire they broke and ran but they did not go far till they took their place behind trees and awaited our approach. When we came up to them again the work commenced in earnest. There was on our side four hundred sharp shooters engaged, and on the Rebel's six hundred S.S. and two Regs of infantry. On our side each man fought on his own hook and I tell you I never saw men work with more earnestness in my life. Every man seemed to think his life depended upon his driving back the enemy. Our men would leap from tree to tree with the greatest speed and would often run up within a few rods of a rebel who was watching a chance to shoot. The Rebels fell back from tree to tree and fought nobly. They would fire then turn and run for another tree, when doing this they would often come out in plain sight of our boys and many of them were shot dead while their backs were towards us. For about three hours Gen Pope said the SS did the best fighting

he ever saw or heard of. For three hours there was one continual crack of Musketry. ~~After three hours~~ until the Rebels were driven entirely out of the swamp. They were reenforced on the hill by a battery and two infantry and one cavalry Regts. We did not go out of the woods but took shelter from their grape and shell behind trees. Capt. H~~[illegible]~~ Haughtaling Ottawa battery soon came up and and after half an hours splendid firing compelled the enemy to retreat. When they did retreat we followed them as before and went half a mile beyond Farmington. The enemy fell back behind their works a mile and a half from Corinth. We then fell back over the big swamp where we are yet encamped just two miles from Farmington and six from Corinth. In this engagement the SS lost two men killed and eleven wounded. We (our troops) killed in the swamp one hundred and eighteen of the enemy who were burried by our men, quite a number of wounded were taken, besides seventeen fighting prisoners. The Artillery killed several on the hill beyond the swamp. When we returned to camp there was one continuous chase that followed us along the whole line. The other regiment appreciated our work and now say they will stand by the SS so long as a man of them is left. On the seventh Gen Pope made reconnoisance towards Corinth with his whole force. The arrangement of his forces were as usual. We were ahead and advanced within a mile and a half of Corinth. Here we found batteries and the enemy drawn up in line of battle behind them. The enemy was in

large force and we could hear the long roll beat in the Secesh camps and soon a great clouds of troops were on their way to reinforce the Rebs works. But as Gen Pope was strictly ordered not to bring on a general engagement he ordered us not to fire on their lines of battle. We lay about an hour within fifty rods of the main line of the enemy. Their skirmishers were a few rods in front of their regular lines and a line of cavalry was just behind our S.S and the Skirmishers of the rebels kept up a continual fire. The rebels were in pits and they also had possession of a house which was surrounded by our guns. The right of our line was a little in advance of this House, so we were fired upon from the front and from the left. Capt Graves Company and Scouts, Babis Secesh and my Sabre were at a rye field. The Rye was over our heads but the bullets cut the rye more and the bullets were all around and cut down the stocks right and left. We lay in the rye and we lost in our Battalion 3 men killed and two wounded. Last Thursday afternoon the South Fork Cavalry was driven in from our left, and it was then that our side [illegible] I was very tired. We were relieved by [illegible] and Brigg with their five thousand men. (Drawn our pickets) Gen Pope had two brigades of infantry on the other side of the Swamp. These were driven in last Gen Pope had his whole force drawn up and ready to receive them if they should attempt to cross the Swamp. The half of our force, Gen Pope and twenty thousand under Gen Nelson

to support Pope. The S.S passed out by way of the Swamp. The Rebels came in force in three and hundred and fifty rods of us and burned a Battery. Their men were fired mostly after swimming in the Swamps and their faces, three shot and shot but we were sure to hit ours. The enemy was behind out the woods Pope and Banks forces remained in line all night expecting an attack. The S.S stood in the Swamps on the right. The result of all this will be both sides drawing off and one side of my face is swelled up as big as four fists ought to be. But I am glad you are safely and does you that it is nothing dangerous and I can stand it and daily do duty as if I can drink coffee and eat soup. This is all I can tell you. We then helped the two companies from [illegible] to sleep under trees, with our sword and Revolver [illegible] Our men, you might say slept with their arms. Every man is required to sleep with his equipments by his side. I see the Chicago papers have attempted to lead those Gen Pope's army is Brigade. We think they have not a right. Col Harper commands the first Brigade and is composed of the 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th and part of the 7th Michigan and the 6th Ohio Battery. The fifty first Ill is encamped on the front of the enemy. Gen Pope calls it the "Hard Bark Regt" The officers are good enough and brave enough to conduct a dress parade but when it comes in the field with the bullets whizz and shell burst they are about useless. Last Tuesday week proves this. They are of the Rye two full days

The officers and men made a most disgraceful retreat offering no opposition at all to the advancing foe. I saw the men coming in few together some without guns or knapsacks. I saw a lieut coming through the woods all alone. The forty seven and was the other Reg out on picket. It retreated in good order. Col Roberts threw out his right and left companies as skirmishers to prevent his regiment from being surrounded and offered a ~~[illegible]~~ determined opposition to the advancing foe and so retarded its progress that Gen Pope had time to put his army in readiness to fight. Had there been another Regiment like the 51st instead of the 42nd out on picket there is no possible doubt but we would have been cut to pieces and Pope's whole army surprised as was Gen Grant. Great indignation is felt towards the 51st. If Col Cummings had been able to command it would have been different. Well I suppose you would like to know when Gen Halleck is going to take Corinth. It may be that he will take it to morrow and may be not for six weeks.

Lottie I have got pretty well used to fighting. Col Morgan says we have done as much fighting as any equal number of men from Ills. At first I did not like it at all. When a bullet would whiz close by me, I thought the next might come closer. But too many have pass me now to be so thoughtful of them. I do not crave them yet. When in the rye field a ball struck very close my feet and I commenced poking it around with my boot when several balls came very close to my head. Some of the rebel S S had discovered me and was making a target of my head. I quickly changed my position. I am well except my face. It is a shame that none of you do not write.

From your Brother J S Reynolds

In Camp three miles East of Corinth, Miss.
May 26th 1862.

Sister Lottie

Last evening I received your letter of the 19th. You certainly must have been in excellent humor for you wrote more news than you have before for two months. I slept much better for having received such letter. You think it strange that the S.S. are not oftener mentioned in the Chicago papers. It is plain why they are not. The S.S. are in the advance when marching and when encamped. and no persons except the commanding officers are allowed to come as far out as we are. A few days since a reporter of the Chicago Times made his way out to our camp but was here only a few minutes till he was under arrest and marched back to the Guard House between two bayonets. The Correspondents are allowed to visit only the rear troops and they know nothing of what is going on ahead except from reports and they are never correct. The account of Regiments engaged, in the Chicago Papers is incorrect always. Some time ago when Gen. Paine went so close to Corinth and found a masked Battery. the papers were loud in praise of Gen. Palmer and his troops. when the fact is Gen. Palmer and his troops were in Camp all day and Col. Morgan and his Brigade were the ones that did the work. That day we lost one man killed and two wounded. Capt Grosser of Joliet discovered the battery and Capt Morall's and our Company F went within fifty rods of the enemys line of battle. Yet according to Chicago Papers it was the Birge's S.S. that did all this, when they were not in sixteen miles of here.

You spoke of the boys I enlisted. Several of them have gone home sick.- Oscar Hudson, Louis Row and Geo Beaumont. One has died - John Depuy, whose folks live south of Fathers about five miles. The rest of the boys are all well. Wm Scheel is a Sergeant and a first class soldier. Ward Knickerbocker is quite sick. He has been in the Hospital about a week and is no better. He has the billious fever. I do not think he is dangerous.

A battle now does not seem so imminent as it did a week or two ago though we are now right in the face of the foe and see their pickets every day. About one hundred rods back of our Camp a very high pole has been set up and a man remains on top of it with glass. He can see the top of houses in Corinth and the fortifications on hills around Corinth - the movement of troops on the elevations back and to the south west of the town. He can also see the cars go and come on the Ohio and Mobile R.R. and says they are either bringing in or carrying out many troops for very long passenger trains are constantly running. It is very quiet here now. Our Battalion has no picket duty to do, nor any other duty except to use the rifle. I have a splendid Enfield Rifle that one of our boys took from a rebel sharpshooter he killed. I think a good deal of it and will take it home with me if I can. A S. Moore, who married ~~Amelia~~ Amaline Hines (You knew her, she has deformed arms and hands) killed the rebel and gave me the gun. The Paymaster is paying off the men in our brigade and we will get our pay in a few days. Since I commenced this, Oscar Hudson has return to camp. He is hearty and stout.

You may think because the S.S. are not noticed in the Chicago Papers that they are not in any Papers. But that is not the case. In the St Louis Republican of the 13th there was a column and a half devoted to the Yates S.S. exclusively. There has been several articles in the N.Y. World, and other papers that I have seen in which we were honorably mentioned. A list of killed and wounded in our Bat was published in the Tribune (Chicago) of the 21st. We are perfectly satisfied with our position as S.S. The Bat has the praise of every Commanding Officer in this division from Gen Pope down. It speaks well, too, for the Bat that Gen Pope should assigh as our immediate support the four best regiments in his division - the 10th and 16th Ills and the 10th and 14th Mc. At the request of the officers of the Bat the 51st was removed and the 16th Ills put in its place as our left center support. The 51st acted just as I was afraid they would when crowded and it is only the large quantity of Brandy that is wasted on the reporters who have hung about that regiment, why they have not been denounced by those knowing and truthful fellows just as the 77th Ohio was at the Pittsburg Landing fight. You said Sarah would write soon I do hope she will. and Charles too.

Write often Soon your Broth.

J S Reynolds

Camp Big Spring, Miss,
June 23/62

Sister Lottie,

I received your letter of the 15th inst- this morning and, as Capt Grosser of Joliet is going home in the morning I will answer and send it by him to Joliet. He has been unfit for duty a long time and is going home to recruit his health and will return if well enough, about the twelfth of July.

Lottie, I've just eaten my supper. Warm biscuit, potatoes, fried ham, pickles, butter, blackberry pie and a little Catawba just to keep off the ague and cool a fellow in this dreadful hot climate, made up my supper. I am as hearty as a buck. Our Captain and 1st Lieut are both in poor health and Lieut Baker will start home in a day or two and the Capt is very desirous of going home.

There is no longer any danger of the enemy disturbing us; so Gen. Rosecrans ordered that all the loaded guns in camp should be shot off this morning at precisely five o'clock. One hundred and forty eight of the 8. C. had their guns loaded and I was placed in Command of them to march them to Gen. Morgan's Head quarters where all his command was to meet to fire their guns. Here I found about five thousand men for the same purpose as I brought mine. The 8.C. were put on the head of this long string of "Blue Jackets" and when we had marched about a mile up the rail road the men were all fronted and they all at the same time fired their guns. Over five thousand men firing their guns at once is something worth hearing and seeing. Now we are here with unloaded guns and as quiet and safe as though we were in Camp Douglas

We are very anxious about Richmond affairs. It seems to me that Gen. McClellan has got more than he can do there. I wish the President would order Gen Pope to Richmond I would like to go there and have a hand in that affair. I did not write home for some time after Corinth was evacuated. I had nothing to write with and nothing to write with on unless I had written on the coat-tail of a fleeing Rebel with my sword point.

Orders have been issued from headquarters to the effect that no officer will be granted a leave of absence unless on the account of severe disability. My prospects are not very good at present for a leave of absence. I expect to be at home some time between now and Christmas. I broke my sword blade the other day close to the hilt, and am now without a dress sword. But

one to fight with. An old secesh one. and a savage looking thing it is too. It is about as long as a Lythe, sharp and heavy. The day Corinth was evacuated I with eight men was out scouting towards Danville when we suddenly came upon twenty four Rebel Cavalry. and fired into them. They Posted off as fast as their horses would carry them and one of them in his great haste dropped his sword which I relieved him the trouble of picking up. That is the one I have now.

But I am in need of a dress sword as the regulations of war demands it. There is no chance of getting one here without paying about four prices for it and that I will not do. Wonder if my Numerous Friends will not make me a present of a thirty dollar sword? If they should it would not make me sick, very.

I see by the papers the new constitution is adapted. I am sorry, but so it is. Thousands in this army had no opportunity of voting upon it. That was our fix. Write how all the folks are at home, how Fathers health is this summer and Mothers too, and Grandmothers. I am running my lines crooked so I had better stop.

Your Brother J. S. Reynolds

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

1862: July-Oct.

Folder 3 of 6

Camp Big Springs, Miss. July 8th/62

Dear Brother Charles.

I got your letter to-day. It contained lots of news. I would like to have been at Salters to have spent the fourth with you all. But I could not possibly get off as I have had Charge of the Company for some time. Our Capt. is sick, Lieut Baker went home sick so you see I am alone. There is strong talk of Gen Paines division going to Richmond at once. I hope it is so. We should have gone there two weeks ago and helped McClellens. It is sad news we got from Richmond now. Though the papers say Gen. McClellen has got the best of it. I cannot see how that is, from all accounts. It seems to me he is badly worsted so far. But he may come out with his army all right yet.

General Rosecrans is Commanding the army of the Mississippi now— Gen. Popes old army. He is a fine man— Common as an old farmer, but a strict and energetic officer. He reminds one,

in many respects, of Gen Pope. It would have been our ~~[illegible]~~ delight to have gone with Gen. Pope. His whole army wanted to go with him.

I have been quite busy to-day and will be for some days to come, if we do not move. General Rosecrans has ordered a court martial to try some of his soldiers. I am Judge Advocate of this Court and find the duties not very light. The Court Martial was in session to day and will take several days yet to finish up the business before it.

I was quite sick for a week with the bilious fever and jaundice. The latter still hang about me yet I am feeling quite well. I suppose Parker is up in Western Tennessee. I have not seen nor heard any thing of him. I dont know what General David is under. I would like to hear from them. Our Colonel has gone home also our Adjutant, three Captains and four Lieuts have resigned & gone home. They have got enough fighting.

Tell Sarah she must be very busy indeed, if she finds no time to write. Tell her to write as often as you do at least. Write often

Your Brother J.S. Reynolds

Camp Big Springs Iowa
July 14th 1862

Dear Brother.

Yesterday I wrote to Sattie stating how long it had been since I had received a letter from home, But all is right now. All the back mail come today; four letters and a paper for me — one from you, one from Sattie, one from Hattie and one from Lieut Baker. It makes a feller feel ~~bully~~ here to get a good big mail. I was surprised to hear that Joe and Newcomb are leaving it. I dont like leaving myself. ~~but if Joe is right~~ I say go in to the last. He must look out and keep a good understanding with Connor. I do not understand how it is that Joe is sued and

and not Tonnor. I wish Joe would inform me. I am entirely in the dark. I have not heard yet how that matter was settled with Granger and how the one hundred and one other little matters have been arranged.

John, how mysterious that fourth of July affair of yours and Lottie's is. You wrote that "Joe, yourself, Lottie and Miss— went to Morris." Lottie wrote "JH and Co. went to Morris instead of Chicago." Hattie wrote about as follows that "JH & Lottie and two others went to Morris" How mighty funny, funny all that is. I can make this out of it. Joe took Lottie and they went to Morris to celebrate the fourth. JH took Helen Snoad and went to Morris to Celebrate the fourth. Is not this the long & short of it I tell you John if I ever went with as fine a young Lady as miss Helen I would write not. Miss—but Miss Helen Snoad In full type.

John do not be too fast about enlisting. The new regiments that have come down here this summer have suffered greatly with sickness. Often out of nine or ten hundred men only two or three hundred are fit for duty. Those which enlisted during last winter and got use to a soldiers fare during cold weather stands it much better here. I would never enlist during hot weather. and besides a better chance may offer itself to you by fall.

I heard about the fourth that Ward had got home, but today I saw his name in the paper as beeing at Keokuk. Iowa. I wish he could get home. I've not heard from him (in a long time) Write soon, your Bro Joseph

Camp Big Springs. Miss. July 26

Dear Brother Willie,

Hurrah for you Bill!! I have just got your letter and it tells me how many Calves and Colts you have on the farm, it tells when you commenced haying, and how the grass looks this year, how high the corn is, how all the grain looks, and the fruit looks, too.

Now, Willie, this is just what I have been wanting to know ever since last May and, lo! I have found it out — at last. I have been pretty sick again since I wrote. It is my Liver that bothers me so much. I am pretty well now, again, and I think I will get along by being careful. If I get down very sick I will go home at once. I can leave here at six in the morning and arrive at Chicago at nine the next day evening, so you see it is not so long a trip in time, if it is in distance. It is rail road all the way except from Columbus to Cairo — twenty miles and boats that distance.

Master Numa, what do you think of this war? Dont you think Mr Lincoln and his Cabinet have played with and petted the Rebels long enough? I think he has, and I have thought so for months. There is ground for a little hope now from the way Lincoln talks, but I fear it will be the same old thing in less than a month.

I am sure of one thing, that is, if Lincoln is guided by General Halleck we may fight till doom-day and then the rebels will be stronger accordingly than we are. Gen. Halleck's protecting policy never will put down the rebellion. If things go on as they have done I will leave the army and go to Australia where I will never hear of our Country's disgrace

She girls write of your plowing corn all alone. How would you like to plow corn with forty or fifty negro boys & girls in the field as there is here? You would not get lonesome then. I would rather be in a field alone than where such baboons are.

You must write such good letters often.

Your Brother

J. S. Reynolds.

Camp Clear Creek, Miss. Aug 13th 62

Dear Sister Sattie,

I got a letter from you a day or two since and will answer it this evening. We have moved our camping place again. A prettier place you never saw than we now occupy. From where I now sit I can look down into the deep glen before me and by raising my eye I can plainly see Genrl Rosecrans quarters on the hill beyond. Notwithstanding this the the trees stand very thick but they are so very strait and tall and not a limb is there less than forty or fifty feet from the ground. The tops of the trees are very heavy and wide spread and they often touch The like of such I never saw up North.

My tent is under one of those trees and the sun hardly touches it the whole day. I have a large walled tent - and in it my bunk which is about three feet high and very easy to sleep on, my writing desk, hat sack, which

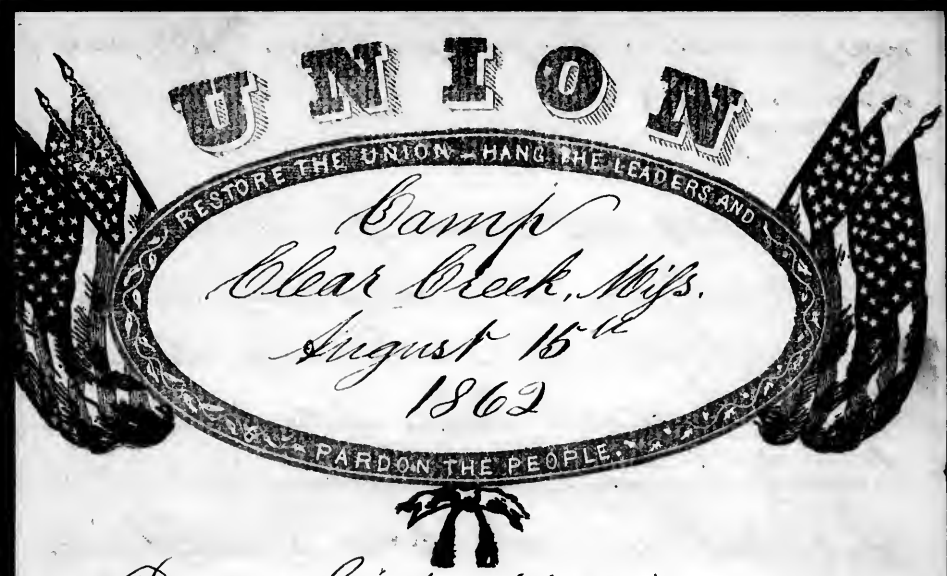
nothing more nor less than a hickory pole set in the ground with the limbs cut about four inches long. an old man's Chair made from a barrel (such as Mr Haines had in his store) a Camp stool, my trunk, a seller 4 by 4 and three feet deep and in this Butter Bread, Cheese, potatoes $2.50 per bu, ginger snaps, a can of raspberries &c. &c.

Lottie you may ere this have heard of our great loss in the death of Major Matteson. He died on the eighth of Aug of Typhoid fever. Mr & Mrs Goddell of Joliet arrived a few hours before his death. Our Colonel has been absent since the evacuation of Corinth and probably will never be able to join us again. The hardships of the approach to Corinth were to great for him. I got a letter from Mrs Lieut Baker yesterday; she said Lieut Baker was sick abed and she was afraid he had the quick consumption. Capt Payne is also absent and I think he will never return. So you see I am the only officer left in our Co and I have command I sign my name to official papers like this. "J S Reynolds Lieut. Comm. Co. F." Capt John Morrell Commands the Battalion. He is a farmer and lives near Uncle Peter Miller's. He was in the Mexican war under Col. Harden.

How is Park's Company getting along? He cannot get his discharge, I think, untill he is commissioned Capt. I got a letter from Colonel Mack of the Kankakee Valley Regiment. He promised me the Captaincy of a Company which he is raising for his Regiment. Mrs Baker wrote me that the Company was now full and when I refused the Captaincy Col. Mack offered it to Lieut Baker. I prefer my place to that of a Captain of Common infantry. Lieut Baker does the same.

You must keep me posted in respect to what the war excitement is effecting in your neighborhood. Tell me who goes. Is Henry really enlisted? What has Jas Gougar enlisted as? A Clerk or what not? Tell Isaac that home is the best place for him the hardships of war would be too much for him Then Father needs him worse than U. S. Oscar Hudson & Father left here the 9th for their homes I sent $150.00 by him to Father and a Book and a secesh fife. I also sent my Likeness by him. If he has not been down Father had better send up at once. I got a letter from Hattie and one from Abram yesterday. I Answered Abram at once and will Hattie's soon, I am getting hearty as a Buck write often Your Brother J S Reynolds.

Lottie I wrote this "double quick" so dont look at mistakes.



Camp
Clear Creek, Miss.
August 15th
1862

Dear Sister Hattie,

And it is you sure, Hattie, that I am after writing to this time. Faith and I have written three letters home within even so many days And it is one I sent Sarah and - and anoth to Abram and troth another yet to Sallie. Ain't I myself a genuine St Patrick's And by the Holy Virgin I've drove all the frogs out of auld Beland and it is me that will be after

Hattie, went you have Pa buy me a dollars worth of stamps and send me in your next letter

(now be had here (3) they are not to

driving all your patience away by writing you so many letters.

But its not only home that I write sure, for about twenty letters I have got from some of our boys who have sneaked away but who have been notified to return at once or be considered deserters. Some write me that they are lame some that they are blind and others that they are sick all over sick. I write them all that they must either send an "army surgeons Certificate of disability" or rejoin their Company before the 18 inst else be Considered as deserters and shot. I have no patience with those Cowards who deserted us while in the face of the enemy and just as soon as the 18th is past I will have every one who has not returned and I know to be well, arrested and brought here for trial.

All the troops are mustered next Monday, the 18th. Before that time I have three muster in rolls to make out - one for the Secretary of War, one for the Adjutant General of Illinois and one for myself. This will be no little job, but I have Ward to help me. He is quite well again, so am I. I hear that George Wagner has enlisted, if so, tell father to keep Abrams money till he hears from me again. You know I sent it with mine by Mr Hudson

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Gen. Rosecrans's Adjutant has just informed me that I would be "officer of the day" tomorrow I don't like it this hot weather, for the "Officer of the day" must be in full uniform with coat buttoned up. sash over the shoulder and around the waist and the belt and the sword on. and in addition on such occasions I wear the French boots, the forage cap and gauntlets. I do this to please the General in whose presence I am a good deal when "officer of the day" and who has a fashion notion that every one should be dressed according to his calling He has put three of the Battalion officers under arrest for neglect of duty while "officer of day" They are Capt Grosier Lieut Moore and Lieut Manning.

I am going to Corinth soon to get me a Coat and pair of pants They will cost about forty dollars each.

Your Brother J W Reynolds.

Iuka. Miss. Sept 1st 1862

My Dear Sister,

When I arrived in camp last evening, I found your letter lying on my table. You wrote me that Henry was going with Parker. This surprised me as Lottie wrote only a few days since that he was coming down here with Capt Baker. To be sure I should be much pleased to have him in the Company with me, but if he so wishes, go, I say, by all means into Parker's Co. Parker I know will do the fair thing by him, and it is no small item in a soldier's welfare, especially in war times like these, to be under a sensible, friendly and feeling Captain.

Had he come here he, no doubt, would have seen fighting sooner and more of it this fall than if in a new Regiment for many days will not pass before

Generals Price and Armstrong will either have to fight or run. General Rosecrans Army is all ready to move forward and he only awaits the arrival of a few new Regiments to guard the towns along the Charleston and Memphis R. R. where large amount of Army Commissary Stores are. General Rosecrans force is about forty thousand and General Prices the same and on both sides old troops. Beauregard is expected to take Command of the Mississippi army again and Gen. Rosecrans is anxious to give the heroes of Corinth at least one rout before the old man himself arrives. Our Battalion is promised its old place again—the advance guard of this army when it shall move south. When this was announced the boys Cheered round after round until they were hoarse. This was on Dress Parade and Gen. Rosecrans made the announcement himself. I think the Battalion boys stands in good favor with the General. They at least receive a good share of his patronage. One of them has received the appointment of mail agent on the Mobile & Ohio R. R. from Paducah to Corinth; another one the same on the M & C R R from Corinth to Decatur. The division Post Master is a S. S. and also the Brigade P. M. General Rosecrans has two Clerks from the Batt. Gen Stanley one and the Provost Marshal one. Also eight are on detached service as detectives in the army. They look out for any irregularities in the army, for those who smuggle whiskey into the lines and are on the look-out for spies. Not a few sutler shops have been confiscated through their agencies and some officers Court Martialed and two Spies Caught. Two of those detectives are from our Company. In the Court Martials appointed by Gen. Rosecrans there are always a good sprinkling of Battalion officers. For a long time Capt. Foster and myself were members of a General Court Martial—I as Judge Advocate.

You spoke in your letter of my not gambling as do a great many in the army. Of course I dont. I never had any inclination to drink and Carouse or gamble. I see too much of it around me & the bad effect it causes to become a dupe myself. I have received five months pay and sent home five hundred dollars ($500.00)

I have received a little present of which I am quite proud when I consider from what source it came and for what it was given. You remember in the last letter I wrote Charles I spoke of being at the head of a scouting party that captured three Secesh Soldiers and one Citizen

Besides the three horses, saddles and many revolvers
I found on the person of one of the Prisoners a
most beautifully furnished Revolver, a seven shooter
and silver mounted. These three prisoners turned
out to be Guerrillas and they were summarily
disposed of. Their arms &c fell to U. S.
But Gen Rosecrans ordered the Revolver above spoken
of to be presented to me. as a token &c &c
Who would not be a soldier under such circum
stances?

I had my picture taken to day. I will send
it to Birdie. It is in a very small round case.
No more to night.

From your Brother

J. K. Reynolds

Corinth Oct 6th 1862

Dear Sister,

We are still in Corinth, but I tell you it was much as a Sargent that our forces held the Town. The Rebels were perfectly desperate and fought like mad men. On the third of Oct. the fight was kept up from eight in the morning till dark; On the left our forces drove the enemy from the field, the first day and the ~~enemy drove us on the right~~.

On the second day (Oct 4th) the rebels made a dreadful Charge on the left, but were repulsed with great slaughter. In about one and a half hour after the first Charge the Combined forces of the enemy made a second Charge on the town from the north west. Here was the most desperate fighting of the day. Two Brigades Charged at once in Column by division and at a double quick. Two siege batteries are posted on the N. W. side of town and our forces were drawn up in double line of battle connecting these two batteries and also one line of battle extended some ways on the out sides of these batteries

At first the Rebels drove our forces back about fifty rods and got possession of both our batteries and about half the Town. But our troops finally rallied and such a seen I never again want to witness. Eleven of our Battalion fell dead and thirty nine wounded. The contest remained undecided - sometimes leaning towards one side sometimes the other - for about twenty minutes. During this time the enemy made continuous efforts to raise or plant their flag upon our forts, but no oftener was the attempt made than the flag and flag bearer fell from the Parapet togather. Our Battalion paid its especial attention to the upper fort or the Rebels in and about it, and at that very place the enemy began first to give away. No sooner was it known along our lines that the Rebels were giving away on our Right than our whole line commenced advancing and such wild shouts as were heard along our lines was enough to frighten even a Rebel. When the rebels saw that our men were going to give them a hand to hand fight they turned and sought the woods like frightened sheep. Our men were just in the hight of their joy when lo! Two new Brigades of the Rebels were rushing at double quick time directly towards our lines. Though Regiments now were all mixed up, order prevailed along the whole line the moment the enemy was seen advancing and an earnest and determined look at once took the place of the wild confusion of joy. This last Charge was met most gallantly by the union boys. Not a foot of our line gave way, but every man stood up nobly and increased the withering volley that was so rapidly thinning their solid ranks of the foe. The enemy pushed on when to do so was certain death. They were more than brave - even reckless. Three officers advanced the last time mounted but not one mounted officer returned. Two of the horses run wildly off the field and the third officer and horse fell togather. Their Regimental officers were all on foot. When the enemy commenced the retreat it was done with order, but soon it became a general stamp and it was kept up till far beyond the range of our siege guns. Now the fresh battle field was awful to behold. Many a union soldier lay dead or wounded, but the enemy was in places piled up - the wounded was often weighed down to the ground and there held by the lifeless body of a comrad. The fighting was in progress yesterday

and is Still progressing near Chanalla. The Reports to say that our troops are cutting up the Secesh badly. Our Battalion did not go in pursuit. They are too badly cut up to do much for awhile. Capt Brewer is badly wounded by a ball passing through the Center of his body. Capt Stewart of our Bat. is badly wounded. Lieut Clark killed. Lieut Conger wounded. Lieut Thompson Commanding Co. "B" Lieut Cameron Comdg Co "A" Lieut Reynolds Comdg Co "F" and Capt Mossill. And the Battalion Came through action unharmed though each one I think has something particular to remember the day by. For inst. a spent ball hit me during the action on my left leg and brought me down but two of the boys raised me up and in a few moments the numbness left my leg and I soon put it in operation again and was at once ahead of my Company. Soon after this a ball broke the strap that held my Scabbard to the belt but I could not take time to pick it up. ~~my scabbard~~ but in the end I got a Secesh Scabbard that my Sword just fit in. I am get pretty lame but am able to take Care of Company "F". I will be all right in a day or two. Corp Albert Ashley is pretty badly wounded but not dangerously. Seven privates were wounded in my Company. Ward Came out all strait. A train of Cars came in today from Columbus & brought a letter from you. Not much danger of a Cake spoiling Coming to Corinth by Express nor any thing else that is good to eat. You will understand this. Adams Express has an office here. I am in some what of a hurry for my Valise or hand trunk as we may be ordered to march at any moment and me cannot take a trunk. I have sent to Charles for a sword &c. The one I now have is a poor thing. Write after I cannot tell you a tenth part of the news. Send this to Sarah I will not have time to write her soon. Your Brother G W Reynolds

Carinth Oct 14/62

My Dear mother.

I will write a line to night. For five days I have been pretty sick but to-day am much better. For near three months I had the Chronic diarrhea and it stopped all at once on me and I thought I was all right, but not quite so. I immediately became very costive which threw me into a fever. when the fever was broken there was strong symptoms of information on the Bowels The Dr. says my head is worth a hundred pr. ct. yet. I have every possible ~~care~~ care here. and you need have no fear of my welfare for I will be well soon. Nothing is the matter of me now but weakness. If you have not sent that Box, it will come safe now send a letter a day or to before sending it. also one same day. More in a day or two.

Truly Your son J S Reynolds

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

1863

Folder 4 of 6

Camp of the Yates Sharpshooters
Glendale Miss April 15th/63

Sister Lottie,

Last evening I wrote to Abram but I'll send a few lines to-night. Come to find out the truth our fight Yesterday amounted to much more than we expected till this morning. The rebel force that attacked us was something over two thousand men while ours did not exceed two hundred and fifty. Our men repulsed them so easily we thought they were not more than five hundred. We killed and wounded more than was first reported. It would be almost impossible to take our works here. They have been much improved since Abram was down. Gen Dodge was here today with an army of about twelve thousand men and eighteen pieces of artillery. He complimented our Colonel and his men for their conduct yesterday. Gen Dodge and his division are moving on south east and you will hear of them next at or near Florence Al. where Bragg's left wing rests

The are anxious to hear the result at Charleston.
All well here. write often.

Your Brother

J.S. Reynolds

Camp of the Gate's S.S.
Glendale Miss May 24th/63

Sister Sattie,

If you get this before Sergt. Schuel starts back I wish you would send me my "Intellectual Philosophy." I sent home by him one Vol. of Harper's Magazines. unbound, "Paul's Letters" and "Moore works." The latter book belonged to Capt. Cameron who was killed in the fight at Bear Creek. You will see a good many passages which he marked. One of them he said would apply to him some day and sure enough it did for now he is dead and his sword lies beside him. I want to get that book bound over again and keep it.

Sergt Schuel will tell you all the news.
I Tried to get a photographer to send Pa and Ma by Sergt. Schuel but it was so warm and dusty I could not get a good one so I had two ambrotypes taken. One was tolerable good but the other good for nix I would be mighty well pleased to see Sergt Schuel bring your picture and Pa's and Ma's and all the rest that I have not got.

Your Brother

Josh Reynolds

Camp of the Gates Sharpshooters
Elendale Miss. June 20th/63

Dear Brother Isaac,

Well my boy, how is it that I do not hear from you. When I received your excellent letter a long time since, I thought I would get one of the same kind at least every week, but here it is so long a time and I've got none yet. I rec'd a letter more than a week since from Sothe stating that Sergt. Scheel was sick and I have not heard from home or from Scheel since. I am anxious to know how he is. We expect a fight on our hands here every day and he is the kind of men we want. Yesterday, late in the afternoon, Gen Dodge telegraphed to our Colonel that the enemy several thousand strong were advancing on Elendale with five pieces of Artillery. We lay on our arms all night and at day break this morning a scouting party went out and captured three prisoners. The enemy is close on every side of us and not

a man of us leaves the post unless on a scout. There is no Cavalry here or at Corinth. We expect it back soon when there will be an effort made to drive the enemy back. There is most Certainly some important movement going on among the Rebels and their efforts are to prevent us from knowing it. They are pretty successful. Too, Not a scout or spy of ours have returned from Dixie for some time. I do not know as we can get this letter through to Corinth. The Rebs. are between here and Corinth. I am well and feeling finely. Our pickets have been fired upon several times lately. But the boys do not show the least ~~fright~~ fear and seem anxious to meet the enemy. You must write soon. If you hear of a fight near here tell the folks not to be uneasy. All will be right

Your Brother

Joe

Glendale, Miss. Sept. 24th 1863

Sister Hattie.

Your letter has just been received. I was mighty glad to get it. It seems a month since I left Chicago, though it has been only ten days. The boy killed was not in my Company but in K. Two of my boys died while I was absent— Geo W Williams of Ills and Wm A Taylor of Alabama. Wm Scheel is very low and can hardly get well. I had a very pleasant trip down here, and arrived on time at my Regiment.

I have been ten miles south of here since my return with sixty men. We

were after guerillas but could find none. The country is overrun with them, but they take to the swamps whenever any force of our men approach.

It is reported here tonight that Gen. Rosecrans is defeated. We do not believe it. It may be so for the enemy is gathering all his forces in front of Rosecrans. I should think Gen Grant would send reënforcements to Gen. Rosecrans. It is known that Genl. Johnson has gone to reënforce Bragg.

Hattie, you must give me a full account of your trip to Cairo Co. I will read it with much interest. I do not suppose Birdie will go with you on account of her school. She would enjoy it very much. It would be good schooling for her.

I am in excellent health.

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Camp of the Yates Sharpshooters
Glendale Miss. Oct. 11th 1863

Sister Lottie

I have just returned from a tramp through the Camps of the different Regiments here. The 15th army Corps is here and parts of the 14th and 17th also. Gen Sherman is in Command of the troops moving east to Rosecrans. We are under Gen. Hurlbut, who it is reported will soon move eastward

My House is finished and a good one too, it is. It is covered with shingles made by the boys, and sided up with nice pine boards that a rebel kindly made, and left for us when he went south.

The house is divided into two rooms — one a bed & dressing room, the other an office. There is a good sized window in each, besides a sky-light directly over my desk. In the office there is a neat little fire-place all lined with sheet-iron. It draws powerfully, and my negro would be in danger of going up the chimney when he is replenishing the fuel if it were not for his pet. You know all negros have large feet. We have a stove for

our bed room which we will put up when it gets cold enough for a stove.

You see if we stay here I am all right for the winter if we move some one else will be all right in our house, for there will be troops here all winter.

Peter Dinder of Joliet and Andrew Eagen of Lockport were Captured four miles north of here four days since and taken to Sulphur Springs eighteen miles hence and shot. They both were sharpshooters. Sergt. Schuel has been sent to Memphis. He is better.

I send you to-day three pictures - Wards. St. Moore and Charley Cagle's. St Moore is a son of A. H. Moore who use to be President of the C. A. and St. L. R.R. Charles B Cagle is a federal spy, and refugee pilot. He is from Northern Alabama and travels the country, just as you see him in the picture, in his hunting rig.

I have written a sketch of his life for Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper and sent one of his pictures to be copyied.

I am well - am ten pounds heavier now than when I was home.

Write often

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Pulaski Giles Co. Tenn.
Nov 16th 1866

Brother Charles

We have been now three or four days in this place. We had a pleasant trip here though it was an poor. The country through which we passed was interesting to me it abounded in high hills and deep ravines. The citizen were almost all secesh. Some had fine homes and plantations and others lived in old log houses. Gen Dodge has a splendid army it would march from morning till night as regular and orderly as though it was moving on the drill ground. Our Battalion is Genl Dodge's Hd. Qrs. Escort. This makes it easy for us. We have to put on a good deal of style and keep every thing in order but our duty is light. The General told me the other day that he was the

engineer who first surveyed the rout for the Ills. Cent. R. R. This is a very pretty town quite as large as Joliet as to houses. The inhabitants are strong secesh. This, Miles Co. is the strongest secesh hole in the state At the late election for Gov. it voted fifteen for the Union Candidate. The young ladies can hardly hold themselves. They hate the blue Coats worse than poison. I told some of them that they would soon get accustomed as kittens. They thought not, so long as the Yankees were about. I was to church twice last sunday at the methodist Church The minister is secesh. It was very hard work for him to preach but he blundered through it. He said not a word about the Government nor Soldier. It sounded like old times to hear the Church bells ring. There are three large Churches in town. I have not heard from Chicago since we left Glendale.

Hope to hear soon.

Yours Brother

J. V. Reynolds

Pulaski Tenn Nov. 29th 1866

Dear Brother,

I dont hear any thing from you, but I suppose you are about to be married and your time is all occupied in getting ready. How is the Curly Headed girl, Billy? I want to know all about her. Have you and Pa bought a mate for my young horse yet? I hope you will get one just like him. If you would get me several young horses I would like it. I may want one to ride some day.

You must write me how my horse get along, how all fathers stock is doing, and all about the farm. The girls writes the news of the neighborhood but say nothing about the farm. They leave that for you to do and now you must do it. I saw a man hung the other day. He was a rebel spy and was hung by our men within two days

after he was caught. The gallows was put on a hill so that the whole town could se him strung up. It made the Rebs look cross enough but they dare not open their mouths. I was close by when he was hung and he showed not the last sign of fear or emotion. He said he knew his fate if he was caught, and died doing his duty. He was a true soldier, though awfully misled. The gallows is left standing as a warning to all rebels.

I was to church to day and heard a good sermon preached by a chaplain; the gave the rebel citizens fits, and they had to grin and bear it though it was in their own house. It is a fine church such as they have in Chicago. I see Charles has had a present what kind of a thing is it? Now Master Norma write and let me know how Pa and Ma are and all the folks and Charley especially.

Yours Brother

J H Reynolds

Pulaski Tennessee
December 5th 1866

Sister Sallie,

I have just recd. a letter of yours dated November 15th I wish you would send me the Tribune that had a notice of my promotion. I have not seen it. I also got a letter from Miss Jennie and her picture. It is a good one. I have not received Miss Sydna and Miss Jane's pictures yet nor Cousin Louise's. Why did not Isaac send me one of his? I went home a day or two since and have no news now to write. I am in health good, better best. Am twenty pounds heavier now than I was when at home. Write often

Your Brother

J. R. Reynolds.

Pulaski Tennessee
December 24 1863

Sister Sattie,

I will send this by Robert Russell & some P.O. in Illinois. Russell is my bugler and a first-rate boy. - a Virginian and withall as smart as you find them of his age. I send him up to recruit for my company. He is going to Lincoln, Ills first and may be up to Father's and to Chicago. I give him a letter to Pa and one to Charles so that you will know him. My boys are all anxious to reenlist and will as soon as we can

me can get the proper blanks. What do you think of my enlisting for three years more. I am going certain if the war lasts that long I want an hundred men by next march.

I am much pleased to hear that Shell is getting along so well. If our army is well filled up this winter the rebs will show the white feather before next fall and we all will be home by next New Years, a year,

I cannot write much to night, tomorrow is Christmas and I will be one duty as Officer of the Day. But you need not think we are not going to have a Christmas dinner. Turkey and Oysters and all <u>sich</u> nice things we are going to have.

I am well and feeling bully

Yours Truly

J S Reynolds

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

1864-1865

Folder 5 of 6

Decatur Alabama
Mch 24/64

Sister Sattie,

I wrote Charles yesterday, and will you to-day. You see we have got pretty well down in Dixie so soon. The "Rebs" are close about but they will not disturb us, I guess. The first night we slept in Alabama we were snowed under a foot. You should have seen us the next morning crawling out of the snow. The recruits had awful long faces then but said never a word.

It is warm as Spring here now and the ground is fast drying off. This is a very nice town on the south side of the Tennessee River. Gen Stephenson is in command and we are his Head Quarter Guard. Don't you see how lucky we are again. Our men have all got their arms and my two Lieuts are drilling the Co. now. I am writing this on Miss Ballou's Desk in a well furnished Room. I have a good bed to sleep in and about an hundred volumes of good books in the Book Case. The family has a son prisoner at Rockisland and one there at home with one arm shot off. He was with Bragg in Tennessee and Kirby and withall is a right clever fellow now that he has lost an arm. You must send me your picture that I forgot. I had a hard cold a day or two but it is about gone now.

Tell all the folks to write

Your Brother

J. B. Reynolds

Direct

Decatur Alabama

Via Nashville

Decatur Ala.
April 7th 1864

Dear Sister Hattie.

I have just rec'd your letter of March 6th. It was just a week coming. We have got a long way south but you will hear of us being still farther down ere long I think. I am glad to hear that Abram has got a place on the R.R. and that out of Chicago. I wrote Sarah last night. A letter from Sarah last night and yours to night is all the letters I have received from the north which were written since I left.

There has ben a big scare here all day

A large force of the enemy is reported twelve miles out. There is a force out there for the ninth Ill. was repulsed, but I have no idea that they will attack this place. Every thing is in readiness for the enemy if they should come. You say Elder was at Pa's and he spoke of his son in our Regiment. I don't know who you mean unless Elder Crew's. His son is 2nd Lt in Capt Logan's Co. and is a good officer.

I am glad you sent me Isaac's picture. it is a good one. Why don't Lottie send me hers that I left there. I am entirely well again, I was pretty sick for a week or more.

Write often

Your Brother

J E Reynolds

Decatur Ala
April 19th 1864

Dear Sister

I recd your letter several days since but every thing has been in such an uproar here that I have had no opportunity to answer it till now. The enemy is all around us and every approach to the town is strongly picketed by them, Our pickets have been skirmishing with the enemys cavalry for several days. This morning some of the new recruits in my company were on the Moulton road in the advance and the rebel Cavalry

run on them. They stood their ground and sent the Reb's howling back. I have no idea they intend to attack this place, else they would have done so before this. The enemy certainly is in large force, and are here for no good. Every Regiment in town was up and in line at three in the morning for several mornings. It is soldiering we are doing now what is soldiering. and I enjoy it too. It is pretty dull when nothing is going on and the enemy miles away. Yesterday one brigade was out drilling and the Reb's were on a hill south of here looking at them. It was cool, dont you think,

When we find out the force and position of the enemy General Veatch may move out some fine morning and try their fighting qualities. He dare not do it now for fear they might come in his rear and cut him off from the river.

I am well again and in the best of spirits. I hear from home or Chicago very seldom.

I will write again soon please send this to Pa's as I have no time to write more now

Your Bro.

J. Reynolds

Decatur Alabama
April 17 1864

W Reeves

Decatur Ala
April 20/64

Dear Sister

I recd your letter last night, while I was writing one to Sarah. It looks as warlike as ever this morning. About fifty rebel cavalry road up to our pickets this morning, early, and called out that they were union soldiers. They were dressed like our men but the pickets knew that none of our men were out and they fired at the rebs and drove them back. I never saw men act as

the enemy does here now They do not attack us in force but will fight our men like tigers whenever they go out side of our lines. It is reported this morning that Genl Pillow is in command of the rebel force just out side of town.

I dont know how that is but he is some bold fellow. Genl Veatch has not force enough here to risk a battle by marching out to meet them. Genl Dodge will be here soon with a large force and then the Rebs must fight or run.

I was not in the Hospital at all but had the best kind of care in a private house all the time I was sick. I am well and stout as before I went north. Write how Charley is often.

Your Brother
J S Reynolds

Direct - Via Nashville Tenn

Decatur Ala.
April 29th 1864

Sister Sattie.

I've just red your letter and am very glad to hear the boys are better. I have writing all day on Pay Rolls and Reports Sunday Morning at day Break we start out. A large force is going and carry nothing but one change of under clothes. We expect to be on the road about thirty days. I am in tip top condition for marching. I have not a single sick man in my Company. There is some sickness in the new Companies but not much. I have packed a Box to send to Joliet by Express directed to J N. Reynolds Write me oftin. I'll get the letters. I will not have time to write Sarah before we start. Your Broth

J S Reynolds

Van Wirt Ga

May 25 /64

A portion of our army is making another flank move. We marched night before last till after midnight; rested 4 hours then made a march of 21 miles to this town. We move again this morning and will reach Dallas to night. Marietta will be our next point but it cannot be gained without hard fighting. We are now 30 miles almost due south of Gen Jo Johnson [illegible] which is at Allatoona. He will have to retreat in haste else fight our army from both north and south. This expedition is without any communication with any other part of our army or the north and will be for some time. We have plenty of ammunition and twenty days rations and forty thousand fighting men. This is a splendid country, abounding with immense fields of growing corn and wheat, but no cotton. Not an able ~~bodied~~ bodied white or black man is to be seen. The thousands who worked the fields are fleeing before the union army. We hear not a word from Gen Grant

Last night I saw Jno H Miller of The Chi Tribune
Rust who was Local Editor of The Times while
I was north is with us He writes for Cincinnati
Papers. My health is excellent.

Yours Truly

J. S. R.

Capt J. S. Reynolds
" S Holden

Last night I saw Jno H Miller of The Chi Tribune
Rust who was local Editor of The Times while
I was north is with us He writes for Cincinnati
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Yours Truly

J. S. R.

Capt J. S. Reynolds
" S Holden

Near Dallas Ga May 31 1864

Dear Sister Sallie,

I have [illegible] to [illegible] every opportunity because letters directed to the Land Office will not be so likely to be thrown aside. I stand it first rate but my men are giving out fast under the hardships. Denny was taken very sick the [illegible] Dallas [illegible] of [illegible] I sent to the [illegible] sick. We are up so much night and the days [illegible] that we cannot get [illegible]

Last night after dark our Reg. was relieved from the front line and we are now in the second line about a thousand yards from the enemys works. The enemy has used very little artillery until this afternoon and now they have some heavy guns at work

you have heard of Aaron Wagners death I suppose before this, A. and F. were driving the enemy up a steep hill and F. had almost gained the top of the hill in its front under a heavy fire when he was shot through the head and instantly killed. He fell close beside a dead Rebel. He was among the foremost, loading and firing with all his energy. This was on the 27th inst and that day F. had 4 killed and 3 wounded and A. 3 killed and 3 wounded. Both Cos were under my command after Capt Conger was wounded. Capt Sogan is wounded and gone back to Kingston. Our Reg. has lost in killed and wounded about fifty men since we left Chattanooga. It was expected that our men would charge the enemy's works this afternoon. The men keep their cartridge boxes on and their guns stacked in line all the time. I think we will move into the front line again to night. Ward and [illegible] keep well. Please send me the [illegible] Republican when [illegible]. We get mail now seldom but [illegible] it will come more regular soon.

Your Brother

J. [illegible]

Dallas Ga May 31/64

J. W. Reynolds

133
29
1197
266
3857

133
33
399
399
4287

Kinsaw [illegible]
June 2 6th /64

Sister

I've just received your letter of the 15 inst. John Schlekau was not killed but wounded in the leg badly and was taken of the field by the 15 Corps and remained in their hospital till sent north — The mistake came as follows — After the battle I had roll [illegible] and found who were absent. Then I went to the hospital and found Corp Waldron, Richard, Hammond, wounded and Corp Parks and Gilfillan dead and Wagoner dead and in hands of the enemy and John Schlekau I could not find but was told by Dr. Mix of our Reg that he saw a man carried off the field dead just after the engagement commenced and thought he belonged to my Company. John was carried

Killed & wounded in Co H.
64th Ills at Dallas Georgia.
May 27, 1864

Killed & wounded in Co F.
64th Ga Vol at Dallas, Georgia
May 27, 1864

Marietta Ga.

July 12th 1864

Brother Charles

I have had to give up at last. Sixty six days of marching and fighting I stood but the sixty seventh was one too many for me. I left the regiment on the 5th the 5th when it was fourteen miles south east of here. Gen Dodge since has been ordered to the left and he marched to the river fifteen miles north west of here and crossed. When I left it was the impression that the fighting was done for the summer for it was believed Johnson was falling back past Atlanta toward Macon. If he does stop this side of Atlanta it will be a short job to flank him out of it. I have now the intermitent fever

Of mornings I feel pretty well but afternoons and nights have fever. The dysentery is not entirely cured on me. The Dr says he will have the fever broken in a day or two and then I will feel much better. We have a very pleasant place here. There are eighteen officers here now and the house is large and cool. Albert Ashby is with me. Tell the folks not to be the least might uneasy about me for I will soon be all right again and with the regiment. I wrote Sarah I believe about the fight of the 27th. On the night of the 2nd the old first Division was called on to go out and cover the retreat of the 16th A.C. which would move off to the right just before day light. The next morning and evacuate the position in front of Kenesaw Mt. Our division went out and just about the time they expected to receive notice to fall back we heard the rebs making their way out of their works. We knew then that they were evacuating and sent word to Genl Fuller. He sent word back for us to move to the top of the Mountain. When the order was given to forward there was some tall climbing between A and F to see which would be first on the top. Co "F" come out ahead and it was just day break when we reached the top and in a few moments our regimental flag was floating from the top of Kinesaw Mountain. The 26th Ills Flag was up about ten minutes after ours. On the third we marched twelve miles to the right and on the fourth we came up with the enemy where the 2nd Division 16th A.C. had been stopped for a day and a half. Our Reg. was deployed as skirmishers and the rest of the Brigade formed in line of battle. At the word forward our regiment started and soon had the rebs on the retreat and we kept them so until they were driven into their main works. Our work was then done and the line of battle which had been following us came up, passed our line and charged and captured the works. Our men fell fast for a moment then it was hand to hand work for an instant and then all was over. Our Reg is but a hand full to what it was when we started. Twice in one week we received the special commendation of Genl Dodge.

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Mendota.

Near Galesville Wis Oct 24 1864

Dear Sister

I have just written to Charles. I am in top top health, We have slept out of doors every night since the 12th. We have not a sign of tent with me and sleep with my feet to the fire and sleep good too. If I might the Coon [illegible] around our fire as though they were at home. Ward and I have [illegible] in the woods on a side hill and the [illegible] is about twenty rods off. Last night a Coon or wild cat jumped off a tree about a rod from our heads and treated around us. We with got up and [illegible] the Gentleman [illegible] he kept out of our way. He dare not shoot [illegible] for it would [illegible] the Camp. [illegible] the things why can't they let us sleep, [illegible] had while with some rocks in our hands but he would not come near enough while we were awake. We will Rest here a day or two yet. I have made most all my accounts out. Ward and Billy and all the boys are well. I expect I will see Paul [illegible] [illegible] we have not had mail but once yet

Yours Bestia

J. S. Reynolds

Near Galesville Ga
Oct 24 1864

W Rugles

Near Cave Springs Ga
Oct 21 1864

Dear Sista

I'll have time to write a few words tonight. We reached this place last night and have been resting today. Tomorrow we start on a long raid. so says our Brigade commander. We are now 16 miles from Rome Ga. Col Mould arrived here today. His arm is dead. He has no use of it. He is ordered to report to Maj. Gen. Dodge will be his Chief of Staf. I have been getting fat every day since I joined the Regiment. Capt Conger is dead. He is the one that stands beside me in that group picture. He lived two days after he was shot.

Yours Brother
J S Reynolds

Near Marietta Ga
Nov 10/62

Brother Charles

I have [illegible] a
[illegible] we have [illegible] got the Reg [illegible]
[illegible] and we shall [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
today.

Your Brother

J H Reynolds

Marietta Ga

Nov 10 1864

J. B. Runnels

Savannah Ga. Dec. 28th 1864

Dear Sister

It is about time I was writing to you. We have been in this camp four days but every moment was taken up in work that could not be postponed. We have moved once since I wrote Charles and are now camped one half mile from the celebrated Bonaventura; which affords the most beautiful scenery in America and some travelers say in the world. It is truly magnificent. Such enormous trees - live oaks - and every one draped with tillandsia. Mr Mackay the English poet in his "Life and Liberty in America" describes it well. Yesterday I was down to Maj Gen Mowers H.Q. Irs. which are at Thunderbolt on Warsaw Sound. and several of our Monitors were there. To day the 17th AC was paraded in the streets of Savannah for

Review by Genl Sherman but we had hardly got our places along the line when it commenced raining very hard and we were ordered back to Camp. The 64th Ills. never looked better or marched better than they did to day though we have not drawn one single article of Clothing for the men since we left Atlanta and have drawn only two days rations of Hard Bread or flour since we reached this place. The Ships are very slow and if we depended upon the Navy to end this war it would never be done. Savannah is all that Tourists have pictured it in books. It shows its age and one would think it even older than the days of Genl Oglethorpe. The Monument of Count Pulaski is one of its attractions and you cannot go on any street but what you will see parks. One of the chief attractions now is the fortifications of the town and River. Many pieces of artillery both light and heavy stand in every work of defense around the city just as they were in use by the enemy. From thirty to forty thousand bales of cotton were left in the city and any amount of tobacco and munition of war.

The Citizens say their Soldiers did not fear the Gun Boats or Genl Foster but they wanted to be off when they heard Gen Sherman and his Atlanta army was coming.

Williams Schell left for home several days ago you will probably see him before you get this. Ward is going home soon. We have got but one mail since we arrived here.

I have not been sick a day since I joined the Regiment this last time. Every one is healthy down here now.

I expect to get a bushel of letters next mail.

What has Pa done with my horse? I have two very good horses. Col Manning promised me his horse if he left the service this winter. He has not yet returned. His horse is a perfect Peacock and I ride him on extra occasions since I have commanded the Regiment.

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

I wrote this in a great hurry

Pocotaligo S. C.
Jany 20th 1865

Sister Sattie,

No letters yet from home. I have recd only one letter from any of you since November 15th 1864 and that was from Charles. Yesterday I recd a letter from Capt Pomeroy of Chicago dated Jany 4th/65 so you see they come if sent. We are likely to lay here several days yet before starting for Charleston. The rebs are sinful & spiteful they say they will fight till the last man of them is killed. All right, we can accommodate them. If they hate us too much to live we will satisfy them while we are in the business. The day after we arrived here a foraging party went out from our Brigade and when four miles out some Johnnies fired on our men just as they were approaching a most splendid House and Cotton Mills Barns &c. The house had three nice Pianos, Sewing Machines beautiful furniture a very large library in fact the most costly fitted up house I ever saw and this with every building on the plantation was burned to the ground. It is Genl Sherman's order to burn every building where our men are fired upon. We have heard nothing of Col. Manning yet.

At Division Hd Qrs. Yesterday they heard that I had been commissioned Maj of our Regiment, and last night the Division Band gave me a fine serenade. During the early part of the evening one of the Band came down and told the Corporal of the Guard to have a good big fire in front of my tent at eleven at night but say nothing to me about it. I was sound asleep and the first thing I heard was beautiful music I thought at first it was

a dream, There are eighteen members of the Band and they have violins flutes guitars and horns, When I got up and opened my tent they were all standing in a semicircle in front of the tent and a big fire blazing which made it light as day. They played till twelve then all took a drink and dispersed. I never heard better music, the night was still ~~and~~ and could not have been better for the occasion. When we were at Pulaski there was a similar band but not so large as this.

I still command the Regiment. Since we arrived at Beaufort we have had drill and dress parade every day when we have not been marching.

I expect Ward is at home by this time. If you see him tell him to write how it seems to get home a citizen once more.

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Recatalogs DC
July 26th 1865
J. W. Reynolds

Pocotaligo S.C.
Jany 28th/65

Dear Sister Sarah

We have recd
tow large Mails since Yesterday Morning
and I got several letters from home including
one from you. This is the first time I
heard from home direct since we reached
the Coast. You do not know how glad
I was to get them. I also recd one from
St Col. Manning & might he was in New York
when he wrote and said he would be here
must week with his Rifles. It has been
very rainy for a week past and the Army
cannot move. If possible this army will
start northward by land next Monday.
Gen Sherman says he will be at his
journeys end in ten days from time of
starting. Charleston is his destination from
appearances now. Day before yesterday
our Division was out again and drove
the enemy across the Salkehatchie, when
we reached the river fourteen men with
Henry Rifles of our Regiment went in
a boat and crossed to within fifty feet
of the enemy's fort and captured a Capt
of the Artillery and five of his men. The
troops in any number could not cross on account
of the river being so much over flowed. We
got back to Camp at midnight. It was
the coldest day we have had and the men
suffered from having to wade so much in water.
All tents have been ordered back except
one per each General. We are going fast
when we do go. and live out of doors entirely

I was never healthier in my life. Riding horseback agrees with me better than going afoot. The troops drill every day we lay still. To day our General (Fuller) had Brigade drill and I have no trouble in handling the Regiment under any circumstances. When part of the Regiment is deployed as skirmishers and part in line of battle I have to stir myself.——

Tell Birdie to stop growing. She must not get so tall as to be oblige to stoop in order to pass through the door.

I would like to se Deacon Bill. Is he as odd as ever? What is he studying?

Tell him and Birdie to write me

Your Brother

D. S. Reynolds

Hd Qrs 64th Ill. Infty. Vet. Vol.
Salkhatchie River S.C. Jany 31st 1865

Dear Sister

We are off again. The 14th and 20th Corps have not yet come up and Gen. Howard is to day waiting for them. The weather is beautiful now. We have only tent flies. Don't you think we are hardy fellows to live this way in mid-winter. We are camped to day in a beautiful woods. green woods at that. You ought to see The Hd Qrs of the 64th Ill. In the center is my fly with desk under it where I am writing, first on the right is the Adjt's fly, next to him is the Quarter Masters fly. Then first on my left is our Chaplains little "dog" tent and next him is our two Surgeons fly. These are in line and face the same way with fires in front of them all and a guard walking regularly in front of my

Goldsboro N C
March 29th 1865

My Dear Sister

I have rec'd just bushels of letters of late but have answered only one of Charles' Am very busy. The Reg. was destitute of clothing and all reports were neglected till we reached this place and every moment is occupied in putting things aright. Lt Chevrain our Adjt was detailed as Genl Fuller's Adjt Genl and our acting Adjt is not very well posted so that I have to more closely superintend his work. Near one hundred men of our Reg were waiting for us at this place. They had been left back sick and most of them were in the Nashville fight and also the Kinston engagement. Several of the 64th were killed and wounded in each engagement.

Hattie what do you think of men marching

two hundred miles bare footed. Two hundred miles from this place we had eighteen barefooted men and the day we reached this place one hundred and sixteen men of our Reg were entirely destitute of shoes or stockings. On the 20th of this month these same men marched over twenty miles and besides skirmished through a swamp three miles wide and I did not hear a murmur from a single man. On the 21st our Reg. was deployed as skirmishers in front of our Division and when we went for the Johnnies no one thought of his bare feet. It was high sport for our Skirmishers so long as we kept the Rebs running but when they flanked us and commenced charging it was another thing. We saw Gen Joe Johnson mount his horse and scamper off as we approached his Hd Trs. Our line reached Johnson's Hd Trs before I ordered a retreat. It was pretty warm work till we reached our support. The move of the Div was only a reconnoisance in the rear of Johnsons army. Our Reg. was thanked by Maj Gen Mower in person for their conduct that day and the General made me a present of a valuable French Stallion which I captured in the fight. He is the best horse in the Division I am in the best of health. Your Brother J S Reynolds

Our Chaplain has sent a communication to the Advocate.

two hundred miles barefooted. Two hundred miles from this place we had eighteen barefooted men and the day we reached this place one hundred and sixteen men of our Reg were entirely destitute of shoes or stockings. On the 20th of this month these nine men marched over twenty miles and besides skirmished through a swamp three miles wide and I did not hear a murmur from a single man. On the 21st our Reg was deployed as skirmishers in front of our Division and when we went for the Johnnies no one thought of his bare feet. It was high sport for our skirmishers so long as we kept the Rebs running but when they flanked us and commenced charging it was another thing. We saw Gen Joe Johnson mount his horse and stamper off as we approached his Hd Frs. Our [illegible] reached Johnson's Hd Frs before I ordered a retreat. It was pretty warm work till we reached our support. The move of the Div was only a reconnoissance in the rear of Johnson's army. Our Reg was thanked by Maj Gen Mower in person for their conduct that day and the General made me a present of a valuable French Stallion which I captured in the fight. He is the best horse in the Division I am in the best of health. Your Brother J E Reynolds

Hd. Qrs. 64th 2d Pa.
10 Miles West of Raleigh N. C.
April 26th 1865

Sister Hattie.

Day before yesterday our Corps was reviewed by Generals Grant and Sherman and yesterday morning we took up our line of march for Johnson's army. It was understood that the Army of the Tennessee would move out only ten miles and there wait till Gen. Sherman could have another conference with Johnson. Gen. Sherman is now at the front and he and Johnson are together. To night we will probably know whether we are to fight it out or not. This army would receive the orders to move out and attack Johnson with hand cheers. It wants Davis and Breckenridge hung and all the rebel

leaders punished. not pardoned. Every body here in the army was rejoiced to hear that President Johnson would have rebels leaders punished and not pardoned. If the South will not give up her leaders to be punished let our armies take possession of every town in the south and hunt them out. It would be much better to continue the war a few months longer now and wipe out every ~~vestage~~ vestage of secession than to leave the men and material in the south who would in less than ten years be back on their old track abusing northern men and hatching up another rebellion.

All is going nicely. I am well as ever.

Your Brother

J. S. Reynolds

(At the review my fine horse and the Henry Rifles, which is a beautiful gun, and with which our Regt. is armed attracted much attention.)

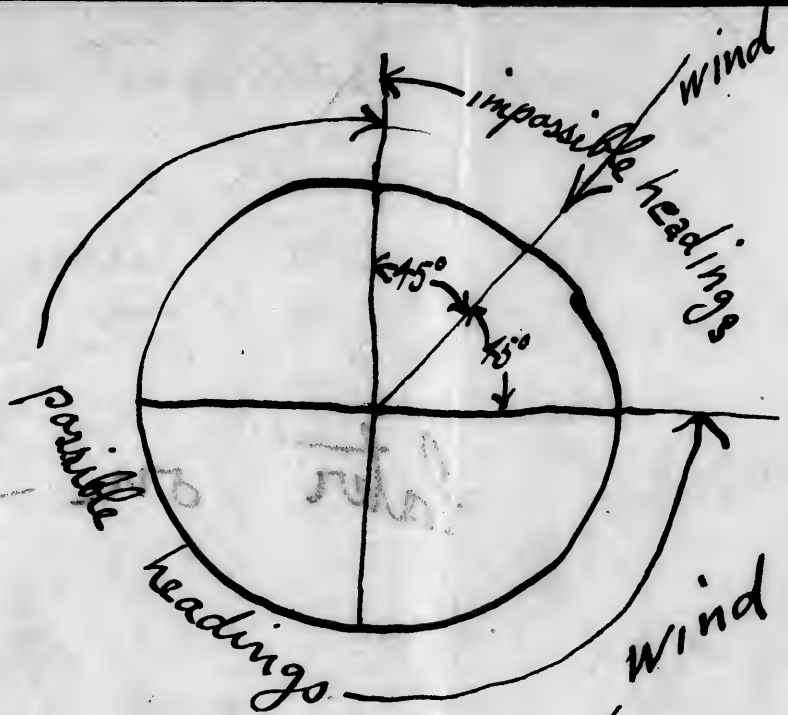
Louisville Ky
June 25/65

Dear Sister Hattie.

I have been expecting to go home every day for a week, but now I cant tell when I will get home. Order after order are coming as to who will be mustered out but they all miss us as yet. We have a mighty nice camp here and plenty to eat. Am healthy and fat. Your Brother

J. E. Reynolds

Hattie, I bought a horse yesterday and the prettiest horse to ride you ever saw. I have three (3) horses now in the army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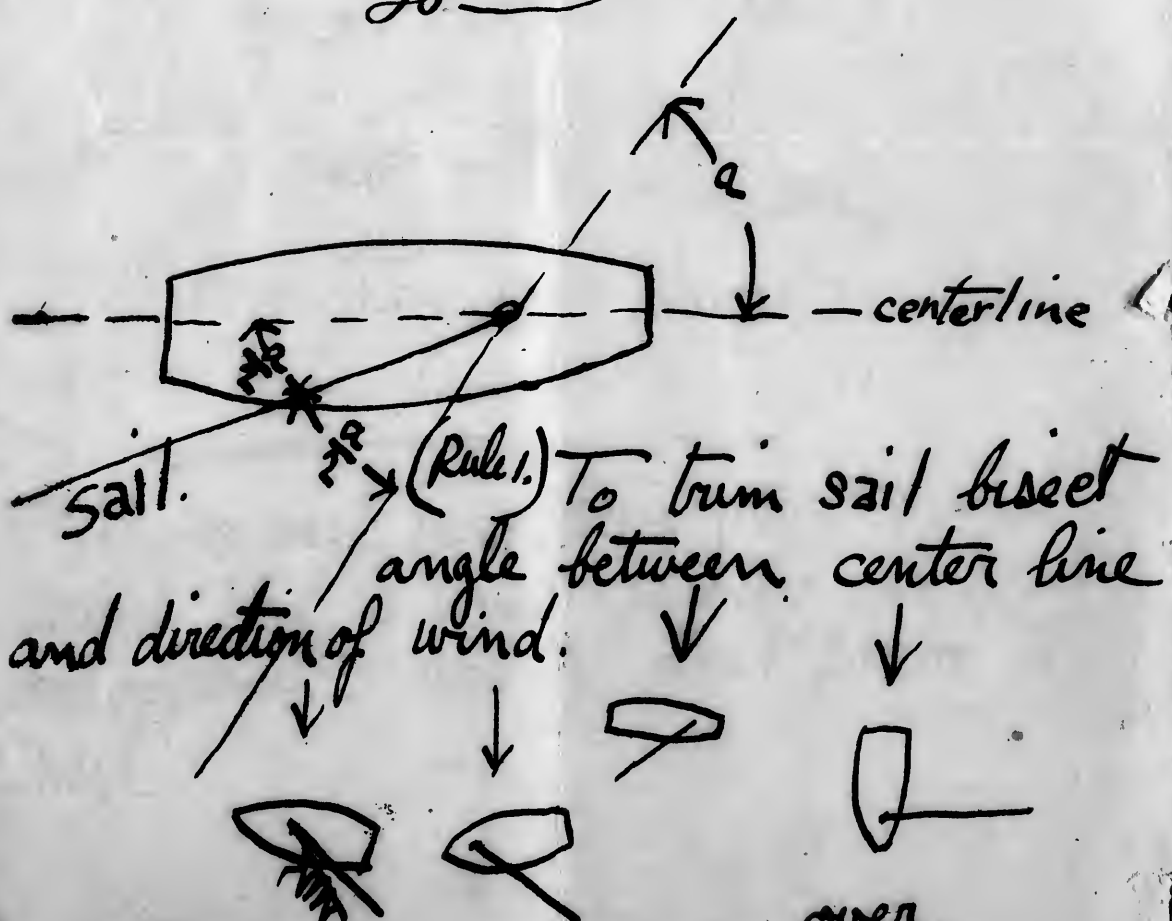
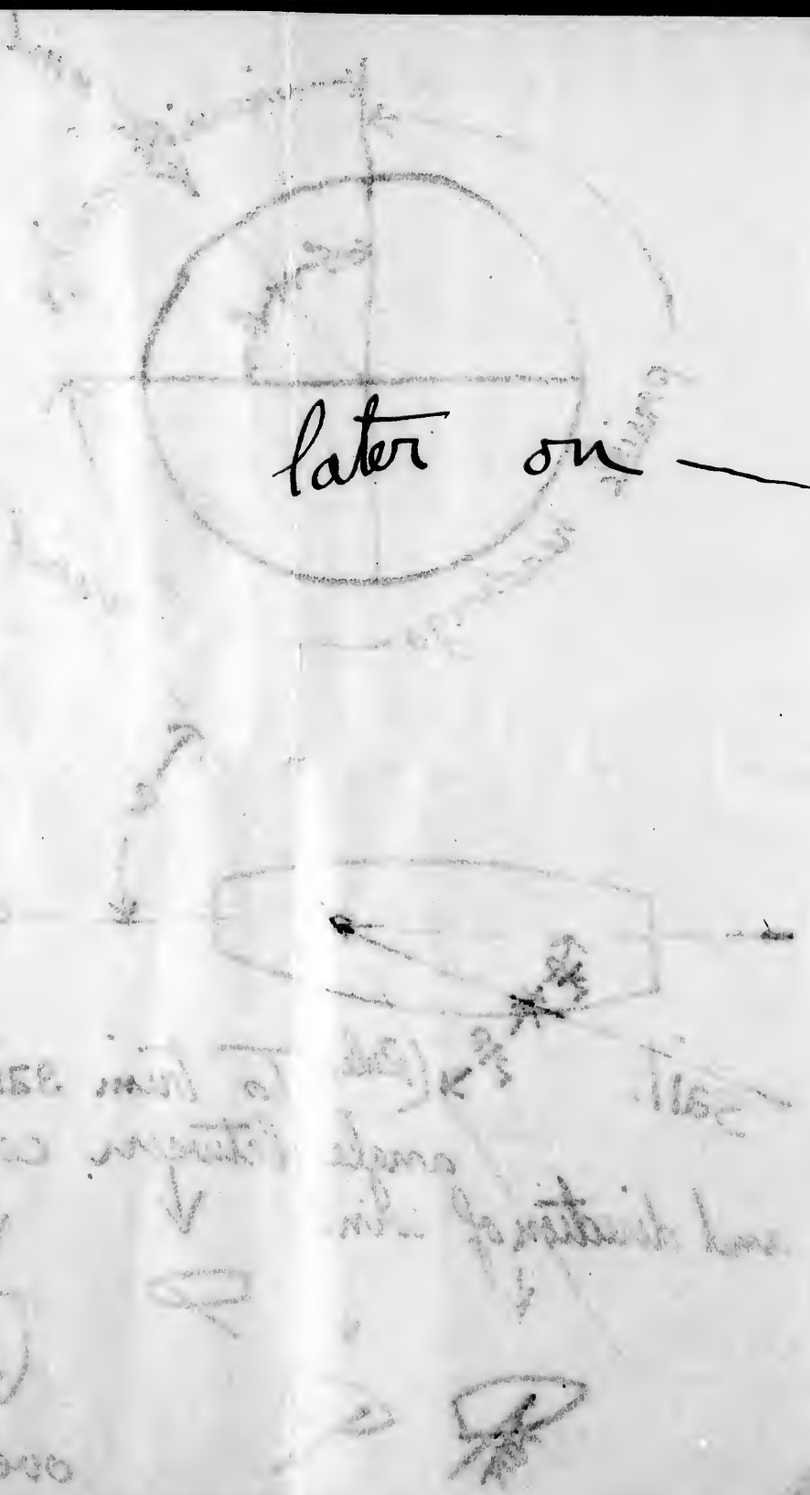
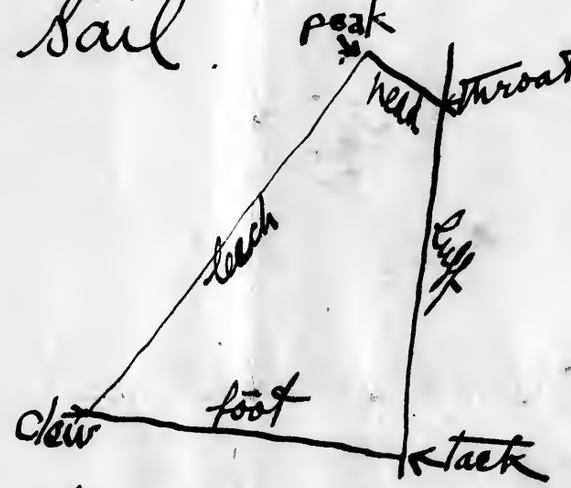

wind
a
centerline
sail.
(Rule 1.)
To trim sail bisect angle between center line and direction of wind.
over.



later on

or trim sail when sailing between 90° and 45° by hauling in until there is just a wee indication of bubble at the luff of sail.



At more than 90° bisect angle as in rule 1.

Never sail more than 180° from wind. That is wind should be kept on opposite side of boat from the sail.

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

Transcriptions

Folder 6 of 6

Ypsilanti, Dec. 28th, 1860

Dear Brother Joseph

I received your welcome letter last night I have just got back from the depot where I was helping Mr. Halock weigh some hogs There was several barrels of cider there and Halock made a hole in one of the barrels so I got all the clarified cider I could drink I had another sleigh ride to day but it was not with the girl but it was with her Father so it done just as well we went out six miles Hendley is mending his breeches whenever he pricks his fingers he will make up an offal looking face and say he ought to have a w woman and then he will say he will say hel be blamed if he dont try and get one for he says he cannot stand it more than one year and if he dont have one in less than a year it will not be his fault he sais golly it must be a miserable thing to be an old babachelor I expect Hendley has told you all the news in his letter I will write you a letter after New Years and lett you know what free time I have through vacation We are well Write soon

From your Brother

John H Reynolds

Chicago, Oct 9,1861

Friend Reynolds,

Dear Sir My prospects were very flattering for getting new units in the country where I went the same night of my return from Head Quarters (near Lenox) I had started off with a buoyant happy heart at my good success or at the encouragement I received from friends as they said they would go with me as soon as soon as with anyone they knew of So I returned to Chicago Monday night to collect a note of $170.00 which I had against a Dental man in town to judge of my surprise when I found he had enlisted and gone off to St Louis and had made no arrangements for paying it so I shall have to give up the Idea of raising this company which I hate to do I assume you I should like to hear from or see you soon I will be at the Richmond House At meal times or at 138 Edina place at other times

Respectfuly Yours

M.R.Carpenter

Mokena, Nov. 6/61

J. S. Reynolds, Esq.

Sir!

I have received a letter from G. Simons yesterday.- He says, that he can get plenty of men, but not without money. -- It would be best, if you could come up here by 1 o'clock today, so that I could write to Mr. Simon by this evening mail. He says, that if he does not get an answer rightoff, he will join a Company in New York, where he is offered a Captaincy.

Come or answer immediately

& oblige

Yours Geo. Bez.

(Note on back says, 34 men on 2nd of Nov
"Left Chicago 26 Oct")

Quincy Feb'y 2nd 1862 4

Sister Hattie,

I was right glad to hear from you. I dont write very often and a good many to write to. I will write to you as often as you to me. I have been well since I left home, and like soldiering as well as ever. I have heard that Ralph Marshall wants to come down. I wish he would. We have one hundred and one men now but would discharge a poor man in order to get a good one. My visit home was too short to suit me but it could not be helped. I had a good time short as it was. But Hattie, I have something good to tell you. Last Thursday evening Our Whole Battalion was marched up town to partake of a nice supper. The "Needle Pickets", an association of the patriotic women of Quincy, got up the supper in the City Hall. It was a mighty nice one too. One long table extended the whole length of the hall and was covered with everything good to eat. About two hundred Ladies were strewed on each side of the table, and the "boys" took their positions, in four ranks, next to the walls. The way the Young ladies did trip around among the boys with coffee and every thing nice to eat was a caution. After supper the ladies invited the Commissioned Officers to stop awhile. So we did and sent the companies to their Quarters in charge of the Orderly Sergeants. And a good time we had too.

I did not go to church this morning but am going to-night. There is one of the best Preachers here that I ever heard. Sixty of the Sharp Shooters go over the River, to Mo. Every day to guard West Quincy. Secesh are skulking about all the while. Several have been caught. It is my turn to go over tomorrow and the Colonel has promissed me that I might take eighty men. I will leave forty to guard the town and the other forty I will take and visit a secesh neighborhood ten miles from here. The Colonel agrees to it. Write often

Your Brother JS Reynolds

5 4

Quincy Feb'y 10th/62

Dear Father,

I have already put off writing to you so long that I am almost ashamed now to write. But when I write home it is to all alike-- Father, Mother, Brother & Sister-- Last night the Colonel received orders from General Fuller to prepare at once to march. To day another order came forus to be ready to move next Tuesday morning. It has not seemed much like Sunday today. Every man in the Battalion was hurrying to & fro. Some looked sad and wished themselves at home again- others were joyous and pleased at the ide of going to work in earnest. I am among the latter, every time. We are just now ready to move--being pretty well drilled and splendidly armed. We have everything now that we could be asked for--Clothing, Blankets, Rifles, Sword-Bayonets, Knapsacks, Haversacks, Canteens, Cartridge-Boxer, Cap-Boxer, and belts.- all that a soldier can use. Not exactly! I forgot. We have not yet got a cent of pay. That we ask for and could use or find use for it by sending it home. We may get it tomorrow, but if we don't we will not get it till about the tenth of March.

We cannot tell certain where we will go but it is almost certain that we will go to Ky and thence to East Tennessee. I hope we will go there. The twentieth Ills Regiment is going there too. It is now near Fort Donelson. I have been over in Mo several times on picket duty. I generally had from forty to fifty men with two sergeants and four corporals. Last Wednesday when we were out one of the sergeans brought to me three young ladies as "prisoners of war". The ladies were the daughters of a Missouri farmer, and annoyed the boys with huzzaha for Jeff Davis and the displaying of a secesh flag. The girls said they were union every time, and only acted as they did to see what Uncle Sam's boys would do. They promised very solemnly to never again hurrah for Jeff but for old Abe and wave the Stars and Stripes. So I sent the girls home to their mama and kept the secesh flag. I guess they were union, for when the boys took the girls back their father gave them their haversacks full of apples.

I like soldiering every day better. I now weigh a hundred and sixty two lbs, When I left school I weighed a hundred and twenty eight. You see by this it agrees with me A good many of the boys have had the measles and mumps, but they are getting well fast. One of our Company has died--McCurty of Wilmington. I have not heard from Abram since I was up. He ought to write I think. Letters directed to Quincy will follow us. Tell all the folks to write.

From Your Son

Jos S Reynolds

6

Cairo Feb'y 20th /62.

Dear Brother,

I just got your letter directed to me at Quincy. It followed me without any delay. We are bound for the wars now in earnest. We left Quincy Monday afternoon and arrived here Wednesday forenoon. (yesterday) When we arrived here it was raining very hard and the mud is a foot deep or more. Cairo is just now an awful place all mud and water. There is a good deal to be seen here. The prisoners taken at Fort Donalson were here yesterday on vessels. I went on some of the vessels and had a talk with the secesh. A motley crew were they certain-- some dandies-doctors,& dinines.-Some whites, some half white and some no white at all. No two were dressed alike. Some had overcoats some shawls, some carpets, some bed quilts, some old dress skirts, and almost every thing for overcoats. Some were damning Jeff Davis and his Generals. Some were damning Lincoln and the abolitionists. Some singing secesh songs, but with all , they looked as though they had rather fight than eat. So they say, too. It is only the steady regularity and coolness of our troops that enables them to overcome the enemy.

We expect to leave here this afternoon for Fort Denleson and where then we cant tell. We will go on a vessel. They think here that Fort Donelson will be attacked by the enemy, soon, under Beauregard. If it is we will be in the fight. No more time now.

Write soon Your brother

JSReynolds

Bertrand, New Madrid Co. Mo
March 7th/62

Sister Lottie,

We are bound for Dixie. We are in Secesh but not in Dixie. Night before last we encamped at Charleston, Mississippi Co. ten miles from the river and yesterday marched to this place. You remember the fight they had last summer at Charleston when our troops whipped the rebels. I never before saw as pretty a town as Charleston. For miles and miles around is heavy timber. The town is situated in a little prairie about four miles in diameter. The Houses most all are one Story & white. Before the fight its population was about fifteen hundred and now there are but eight families, in all thirty six persons-- all the rest were secesh and have gone to Arkansas, which is only thirty miles from here. Our battalion selected the best houses for quarters. Lieut. Baker and myself picked out a nice little parlor with chairs and fire place.

Bertrand is a small railroad town and every family is secesh and are prisoners. The 51 Ills. the 10 Iowa 16 Ills 31 Ill 8th Mo and a squadron of Cavalry are here now. Today and tomorrow five other Regiments will arrive when we will move on to New Madrid. Jeff Thompson, the spies say is between here and New Madrid. But Jeff most likely will retreat to New M. and there give us a battle. We will leave here day after tomorrow morning. The Cavalry is going no farther with us, so the Sharp Shooters will lead the army of about ten thousand men. I like that.

Bertran March 9th 1862

General Paine our commanding officer, at three oclock this morning ordered the expedition to prepare to move at once. By nine a.m. we will be on the way to New Madrid. Yesterday morning two of ours soldiers were shot dead by a band of Jeff T. men only two miles from camp. A squad of cavalry as soon as it was known started out after them and by noon captured twelve of the Rebels. A drummer among them wondered why he was taken, because he said he never shot any one, only drummed for Jeff Thompson. The prisoners say General Price is at New Madrid and Jeff Thompson is ten miles this side. They wont say what force they have. We will find out by tomorrow night. General Paine says he will have a force of forty thousand men before he arrives in New Madrid. Ten thousand here and three other divisions of equal no. that are approaching by other roads. The boys are in good spirits. All seem anxious for an encounter with Jeff. Lottie if you have time I wish you would copy off the descriptive letters I send for my reference in making out my Journal Direct to Cairo.

Your Bro.
JSReynolds

8 A

Camp Yates March 6th 1862
Dated incorrectly by J.S. probably 16

Sister Lottie,

You see we are going farther south all the while though slowly. Camp Yates is four miles down the river from New Madrid halfway between N. M. and Point Pleasant. The Battalion is here alone. It came here the sixteenth but I was not well enough to go with it so I remained at N. M. till the twenty fourth when I joined the Bat again. I caught a very hard cold and it settled on my lungs. The Doctor was very attentive else I would have had the lung fever. I am now entirely well and feeling finely. I said the Bat is all that is here. That's wrong. There is two thirty two pound cannon stationed on the Bank of the River not forty yards from my tent. Thirty artillerymen, from the regular army, are here to man the guns. The River here is two miles wide and the cannon we have here will throw a ball or shell into the woods beyond the River. The Cannon were taken at New Madrid. Yesterday the Rebels seemed to be very busy on the other side of the River and it was soon seen that they were planting a Battery of six guns on the Bank. Our guns opened fire and after they fired twenty two rounds no men or Cannon could be seen. A house that stood about half a mile back from the River was hit twice and two large holes were plainly seen-- at the same time too, men were seen hastening from the house into the woods. We have a good view of the river about two miles above N. M. and also down to Point Pleasant. Men with telescopes are at all times on the Bank watching that no one crosses the River and also sees what is going on beyond the river.

Perhaps you would like to know what kind of a place Camp Yates is. It's a mighty pleasant place. The River bank is now, as high as is the River about twenty feet above the water and the land is high and dry. Our tents are pitched in a fine large orchard of about one thousand trees--apple and peach. The house, or rather houses as there are three of them, is made of logs split, two stories high and comfortable. The owner is a secesh and had fourteen negros. All but two he took with him when he fled south and those he left behind to look after things on the plantation. We are taking care of things on the plantation and the negros are cooking for us. There is several thousand bushels of white corn on the plantation. Five hundred sacks of shelled corn are on the bank ready for loading on boats. A corn mill is close by so we have plenty of meal. The soil is sandy mixed with red clay. Under the peach trees the ground is covered with peach seeds. The negros tell us that the peaches here sell for ten cts a bushel during the proper season, and apples almost as cheap. Now however there are no apples here. General Killow was at New Madrid last fall three months with fifty thousand men and they took every apple that could be found. Right in front of my tent is an apple tree as large as any in Uncle Dison's orchard. It looks like a forest tree. The peach trees here, too, are as large as the apple trees.

We live well here. Every day the boys bring in several turkeys geese and chickens. They have brought in some wild turkeys--the others they get on plantations that are deserted by their rebel owners.

I have seen before never such destruction of property as there was at New Madrid. It was as pleasant a town of perhaps eight hundred or a thousand inhabitants as I ever saw. It is situated, as you can see on the map, on the bend of the River on the convex bank. The houses were mostly one and a half story, frame and painted white. Each house was situated on a lot from a quarter to half a block large. In almost every case the lots were thickly planted with almost every variety of fruit trees. Out a short distance from the town are quite a number of beautiful residence fixed off according to the most approved southern style. Most of these are deserted by their secesh owners. What now of New Madrid and its once brisk trade and happy people? One

of the Rebel forts is in the South west and the other in South East part of town. The Union force you know was back of the town and in order that their(the seceesh) cannon might have a clear range at us they burned and pulled down at least half the houses in the town and every fence that ran east and west. I counted twenty six fine large orchards with giant trees between the forts and our line that were cut down to the ground, also about eight acres of heavy forest trees that came close to the town on the east, Not a person besides a few soldiers now and then a lonely negro, who was strolling among the ruins apparently bewildered, could be seen in the town for several days after its evacuation. Though coffee was one dollar pr lb and salt eight dollars per sack of twenty five lbs before we came now the inhabitants about here cannot get them at any price except as they get them from the soldiers. You see I fill my letters full. It stands a person here in hand to do so & not write often as a three ct stamp here costs ten cents and sometimes a shilling. I got there three ones on this envelop for a dime. Quiet to Cairo yet.

Your Brother JSReynolds

(Cont. on Back of page, all one letter. MB)

Sister Lottie,

Perhaps you have read in history or romance of New Madrid. It was founded in 1787 three years after St. Louis was founded and was a place of much more importance till 1804 when the bank commenced washing away so fast that it was evident that no great improvement could be made near the river without its early destruction. The numerous earthquakes in 1812 totally submerged the townand it was not till several years after that any improvement was made. Had it been situated on a more stable bank & had it not been for the earthquakes that visited this Section in 1812, New Madrid would now I believe have been a place of as much importance (if not more) as is St. Louis. New Madrid is certainly an unfortunate town this being the third time that it has been desolated--in 1804, in 1812 and in 1862. If you wish to read of this town you can find some account of it in a work called "Book of the United States". It was published some twenty five years ago by Greenville Mellen, I think. Other works on the United States speak of it, and Gilmore Simms the noted Southern writer mentions it in several of his works of fiction. I forgot to mention this in the body of my letter so I append it here.

Write soon and often and all the news.

Your Brother JSReynolds

Camp Yates April 1st 62

Sister Hattie,

It has been some time since I wrote home, and it's be n almost as long since I heard from there. You never saw so pleasant a place as is this where we are encamped. It is just in the edge of a large forest and right on the bank of the Misippi. The peach trees are in full bloom, the ground is green, and many of the forest trees are already leaved out. The weather is warm, pleasant as any may day I ever saw. It is healthy here too. My health was never better and that of the Battalion was never before, since its organization, so good. But one thing is peculiar about our situation and, Hattie, I don't think you would fancy that. Right across the River, in plain sight is a large force of the enemy and they are continually trying to erect batteries on the shore to shell us. Not a night, hardly, passes but what they try to throw up a breastwork to protect their guns but our watch guard discovers them and a few shells from our guns send them back into the woods. Though the River here is almost two miles wide yet in the night when everything is quiet on this side we can hear everything that's going on, on the other bank. We can hear the men talk-- the officers giving commands- the men at work chopping, digging, and driving teams. The water conveys the sound. A few nights since I was officer of the night-watch-guard and lay most all night on the shore close to the water. At about twelve I was satisfied that I had discovered the rebels at work throwing up a breastwork. I informed the commander of the fort of the fact and pointed out the place to him as near as possible. He ranged two of his thirty two bound guns. Eight rounds of shell were quickly fired and again every thing became silent. I again resumed my place by the River but could hear nothing now, except the occasional call of men, who a ppeared to me much like frightened quails. There is not an hour in the day or not but what we hear cannon roaring. Last night about nine oclock the morter boats opened again on island no. 10. No cannon makes half the noise that a mortar does. Though we are five miles from the island when the morter is fired the earth shakes distinctly. The sight last night was beautiful while the morters were firing. We could distinctly see the flashthen the shell lighted by its burning fuse and describing in its course a perfect semicircle like a rainbow. Sometimes there would be five or six shells in the air at once, all apparently traveling the same path. Then there is the two forts at New Madrid of twenty heavy guns, which are five miles from here,- then Fort Yates of three guns, one sixtyfour pounder,- then fort Pope of four guns which is right here, and there are two batteries between here and Point Pleasant and one at that place which is four miles from here. All these batteries are firing more or less every day at the enemy across the River or at boats or small crafts trying to run the blockade. General Pope was here yesterday. He said that just as soon as our gunboats and transports arrived here he would land fifteen thousand men on the other side of the River. We are anxious to see our boats down here, for we want to get across the River and put the impudent Rebels to flight.

The boundry line between Ky and Tennessee terminates opposite of us on the other side of the River, so we stand on Mo soil and look into Ky & Tennessee, while Arkanaas is only twenty miles westward. Hattie, how would you like to take a ride out west from here in the forest. Out there but a few miles are Bears, Elks, Wolves and Rebels and Wild Turkeys. Our boys have killed quite a number of the Turkeys. The Bears Elks and wolves we care but little aboutas they are not good to eat. And the Rebels go in too small squads to be profitable to hunt. The boys are now not so much afraidof the rebels as they were before the New Madrid fight. Our Battalion was the nearest to the enemy there for about twenty four hours but as they were deployed according to sharp shooter style the enemys ball and shell had plenty of room to pass between. The

now and then slightly wounded. We like our way of fighting and have a gun that will shoot like a little cannon. They will carry a ball across the River here a distance of almost two miles. I would like to be at home a few days and see the folks. None of you write how Charley is, how pa and ma are, how every thing or anything is getting along. When I send a letter home I consider it as going to all and I ought to get half a dozzen whenever I write one. Tell John especially to write and write all the news about the Point. I'd give a negro to get a letter from Willie and mother form Isaac. I wish Father would write & mother too. I have got no pay yet. Uncle Sam owes me five hundred and seventy-two dollars, to-day. It will come some time but I can't tell when. I don't think I'll be home before the first of July. Write soon

Your Brother JBReynolds

PS. I have just received your letter mailed the 28th. You did not much news. Perhaps there was not much to write. I was however very glad to get it and the pieces you cut out of the Tribune. Sam Raymond did not do justice to the SS in his letter for their main fighting fighting was done the night before the guns opened upon the town.

In Camp one and a half mile below Camp Yates,
Mo, April 2nd 1862

Sister Lottie,

I have realy had a good time reading the news the last few days. These four papers Charls sent reached here on the 30th and then yesterday came yours and Hatties letters both filled brim full of printed news but containing very little written news. Hattie sent me Major Raymonds letter. You need have no fear of papers sent not reaching me, for as a general thing I will get them. Amongst all the news those papers contained I could not help noticing one item or fact. Now what do you think that was? Why the prominence that Alderman Holden has already obtained among the City Fathers, and the warmth with which the papers spoke of his Resolutions. I got the papers just a t noon and as soon as dinner was over I went into my tent and seated myself in an old fashioned armed chair with paper in hand and feet upon a box. Thus I was reading till two pm. when an order came that three companies of the 33 should at once strike tents and move to the center fort, which is one mile and a half below fort yates, of which I have spoken before. In half an hour the wagons were loaded and all hands on the march, Major Matteson in command. Where we are now encamped is in every respect as pleasant as at Camp Yates. It is just in the edge of a large forest, and only a few rods from the Missippi. The peach trees are in full bloom and there are many of them here, too. The ground is green , and many of the forest trees are already pleaved out. The weather is warm,--pleasant as any May day I ever saw. It is healthy here, too. My health was never better and that of the Battalion was never before, since its organization, so good. But one thing is peculiar about our situation and Lottie, I dont believe you would fancy that. In the swamps west of here and only two or three miles distance the enemy lurks in small squads and sometimes even approaches so near as to fire at our pickets. Yesterday William Sheel (you know Father's William) and two others went out west about three miles after wild turkeys and while going through an open place they were fired upon from the thick brush. They thought best not to loiter in the strange woods an beat an hasty retreat. But not to be outdone by the Secesh William took a round about road and passed over the plantation of a Rebel sympathizer and captured two of his finest turkeys and brought them into camp. Then just across the river in plain sight is a large force of the enemy and they are continually trying to erect Batteries but our watch invariably discovers them too soon and a few shells from our thirty two bound guns send them pell mell into the woods. Though the river here is almost two miles wide yet at night when everything on this side is quiet, we can hear everything that is going on over on the other shore-- afact of which the Rebels are not aware or certainly they would not be so noisy. We can hear the men talk--the officers giving commands--the men at work chopping, digging and driving teams. The water conveys the sounds.

Last night about nine oclock the mortors opened fire again upon Island no ten. There is not an hour in the day or night that we do not hear cannon roaring, but when a morter is discharged we are immediately apprised of the fact. No cannon makes the noise that one of these does. Though Island no ten is five miles from here when the morters are fired the earth shakes here distinctly. The sight last night while the morters were firing was most beautiful. We could distinctly see the flash, then the shell lighted by its burning fuse and describing in its course a perfect semicircle, like a rainbow. There were at times five or six shells in the air at once, all apparently traveling the same path through the heavens. Beside the music made there at Island no ten there are two forts at New Madrid of twenty guns, only five miles distance fort yates of two big guns, only one and a half mile opp. them another fort of two guns half a mile [illegible]

River from here, then a fort of two guns right here and three forts within the next four miles below here, and all their batteries firing more or less every day at the enemy across the River or at Boats or small crafts trying to run the blockade. Dont you think we have noise enough, But the noise of the cannon and morter is not all now. Yesterday evening and last night the enemy across the River were busy digging rifling pits. In the evening so long as we could see we kept up a steady fire at them with our rifles. Many of the Balls did not reach the other shore but enough did to keep the Rebels in hot water. Today they thought to pay us off and took their position in their rifle pits and blazed away at us for about two hours. As a general thing their balls fell on the river but a few fell in our camp. One pierced Capt Cassy's tent, another fell in front of my tent, which I picked up. It was an ounce ball and thrown out of a grooved rifle. Our men replied briskly to their volleys and occasionally a shell would burst over them. None of our men were harmed. After the firing stopped we saw a wagon drive up and two men were placed in it. They were either killed or wounded. A few evenings since when it was very calm and while sitting on the River bank I saw a rebel soldier come down to the River after waser. I hailed him and asked him "what they were doing". He replied that they were preparing to give us a warm reception when we came over. Then I asked how they of the south intend settling the present difficulties. He said " by fighting it out." "But" said I "when and where are you going to fight it out." He made no reply when I added, "You seem more disposed thus far to run from danger and difficulty, than to manfully fight it out." This last remark displeased him much as did the previous question seem to perplex him. He now sharply reiterated by asking, "How many negros we had stolen.""What are you going to do with the damned negros." Cco.

Gen Pope was here yesterday. He said just as soon as our gunboats and transports arrived here he would land fifteen thousand troops on the Tennessee shore. We are anxious to see our boats down here, for we want to get across the River and put the impudent Rebels there to flight. The action of Com. Foot seems quite strange to me. From what they tell us who have been there(at No. 10) it seems that he never has fairly engaged the Rebels works. I know it would be dangerous for the Com. to moor his fleet down in good range of the enemy's guns but there is danger always before victory in war. If the fleet was not in condition it should never have made a feint against it. Such in my mind is poor policy. The boundry line between Ky. and Tennessee terminates right across the river from here. So I stand on Mo soil and look into Ky. and Tennessee while Arkansas is only twenty to the westward.

You spoke of my owing Charles, Sarah and Birdie each a letter. I I remember of getting letters from them all but it was just as we left Cairo and to answer a letter then I could not as we were every day on the move until after the taking of Madrid. Then I had almost forgotten whose letters I had answered and whose I had not and those from whom I had received letters. When I send a letter to you it is as much for them to read and as much for their information as for yours, so each one of them you see ought to write me a letter for every one I send there. This is what I tell the folks at home. But I will yet write to Charles and Sarah and Birdie. I would like to receive a letter from each one of them. Tell Charles I'll remember him for sending those papers as long as there is a Rebel left.

I think Birdie might write every few days. Sarah neither has much to do. Though Charles indeed is a business man Sunday comes occasionally and then he is not so busy.

I am on duty today, officer of the Guard, and will have to be up all night but I dont mind it as there is plenty of excitement to keep a person awake. Now, Lottie, next time try to write at least two pages of letter paper. I think you might write two sheets full [illegible]

On board the Dan'l Taylor
April 17th 1862

We have taken to roving. At two oclock in the morning of the 13th of April three companies ofthe S.S. with over twenty thousand troops left New Madrid for down the Missippi River. Eight gun and four morter boats led the expedition and followed by twenty five large Transports heavy loaded with men, cannon, horses, mules, and provision. At daybreak I made my way to the upper deck to see what was to be seen. On ahead about three miles from the Polar Star-the leading transport- were the Gun boats, two abreast, closely followed by the Morter Boats and all steadily making their way to the heart of Seceshia. The Transports followed one after another and about a quarter of a mile apart. The sight was indeed pleasing to me as well as indicative. The Fleet advanced in this way till the leading transport was just opposite Hales Landing and the Gunboats were out ofsight round the Great Bend when heavy firing was heard through the point of timber in the direction of our Gunboats. Immediately the leading transport came to land on the Tennessee side and was followed by all the others as they came up. The firing was kept up over half an hour very briskly when it ceased. An express boat soon came round the point and reported that our boats were met by seven Rebel Gunboats and that the latter were sent crippled down the current. After a delay of two hours the fleet moved on, slowly. It reached the Bend at Osceola about two p.m. Here the Chicasam Bluffs came in sight and on them we could see encampments of the enemy and in tiers were large guns overlooking the river. About a mile below Osceola the whole fleet came to land. On both sides of the River scouts were started out but they could go but a short distance on account of the swamps. Thenumber and situation of the enemy was unknown to Gen. Pope. These he must know before going forth, so he concluded to get some of the inhabitants aboard and question them. Gen. Pope sent for Com. Foot, Gen Paine, Gen Hamilton, and Gen. Stanly to come aboard his vessel. Then his boat came along side our boat when the three companies of SS. were ordered to put on their armament and pass over to his boat. When we had

(letter stops here. Rest missing)

P.S. I can get no ink good for anything, so be patient when you get this.

12A

In camp five miles from Corinth
May 11th 1862

Sister Lottie

I see if I don't write I will getnno letters. It is almost impossible to get a chance to write here, now. Evere since we landed here there has not been twenty four hours at a time that we have been off duty. We have been and are now the advance of Gen Popes forces, and every time Gen Pope has made an advance the Yates Sharp Shooters took the lead and did the fighting, and every time the enemy has advanced they have gone forward to check their progress. We were in four skirmishes previous to the third(of May) when we were in a regular battle when Gen Paine and the SS killed more Rebels than did any regiment at the Battle of Shiloh. The Chicago Papers attempted to give an account of the engagement but they did not get the first item correct. The reporters are not allowed this side of Gen Pope's quarters and the accounts they send back are not one in fifty correct. You know very little what is going on here. So do the papers there. At ten o'clock on the morning of the third The whole of Gen Popes forces was ordered to move forward. The SS as usual were in the advance as skirmishers and they were supported on the right by the tenth and sixteenth Ills and on the left by the tenth and fourteenth Mich and these Regiments in turn were supported by the remainder of Gen Popes force. In this way we advanced very cautiously about an hour when in the middle of a cotton field the enemy opened a severe fire upon us. There fellows were in the brush in the edge of a big swamp. This swamp is a mile and a half wide and is thickly covered with underbrush and trees. The The moment they fired on us and before they could reloadthe whole line of skermishers dashed forward and did not fire until we were right on the enemy. At our first fire they broke and run but they did not go far till they took their place behind trees and awaited our approach When we came up to them again the work commenced in earnest. There was on our side four hundred Sharp Shooters engaged, and on the rebels six hundred S.S. and two Reg. of infantry. On our side each man fought on his own hook and I tell you I never saw men work with more earnestness in my life. Every man seemed to think his life depended upon his driving back the enemy. Our men would leep from tree to tree with the greatest speed and would often run up within a few rods of a rebel who was watching a chance to shoot. The Rebels fell back from tree to tree and fought nobly. They would fire then turn and run for another tree, when doing this they would often come out in plain sightof our boys and many of them were shot dead while their backs were towards us. For about three hours Gen Paine said the SS did the best fighting he ever saw or heard of. For three hours there was one continual crack of musketry until the Rebels were driven entirely out of the swamp. They were reenforced on the hill by a battery and two infantry and one cavalry Reg. We did not go out of the woods but took shelter from their grape and shell behing trees. Capt. Houghtalings Ottawa battery came up and after half an hours splendid firing compelled the enemy to retreat. When they did retreat we followed them as before and went half a mile beyond Farmington. The enemy fell back behind their works a mile and a half from Corinth. We then fell back over the big swamp where we are yet encamped just two miles from Farmington and six from Corinth. In this engagement the SS lost two men killed and eleven wounded. We (our troops) killed in the swamp one hundred and eighteen of the enemy who were burried by our men, quite a number of wounded were taken, besides seventeen fighting prisoners. The Artillery killed several on the hill beyond the swamp. When we returned to camp there was one continuous cheer that followed us along the whole line. The other regiments appreciated our work and now say they will stand by the SS so long as a man of them is left. On the seventh Gen Pope made reconnoisance

towards Corinth with his whole force. The arrangement of his forses were as usual. We were ahead and advanced within a mile and a half of Corinth. Here we found batteries and the enemy drawn up in line of battle behind them. The enemy was in large force and we could hear the long Roll beat in the Corinth camps, and soon a perfect ocean of troops were on the way to reenforce the rebels works. But as Gen Pope was strictly ordered not to bring on a general engagement, he ordered us not to fire into their line of Battery. We lay about an hour within fifty rods of the main line of enemy. Their skermishers were a few rods ahead of their infantry line and a line of cavalry was just behind. Our SS and the skermishers of the Rebels kept up a continual fire. The Rebels were in pits and they also had possess of a house which was surrounded by big guns. The Right of our line was a little in advance of the house. So we were fired upon from the front and from the left. Capt. Grossers Company and Lieut Baker's section and my section were in a rye field. The Rye was over our heads but the Rebels could see the rye move and the bullets were well aimed and cut down the stocks right lively. In this engagement we lost in our Bat one man killed and two wounded. Major Applebee of the seventh Ills Cavalry was killed but a few rods from me. None others were killed on our side. We got back to camp at nine p.m. I was very tired. The next day The next day Gener'ls Price, Vandoren, and Bragg with twenty five thou and men (drove in our pickets) Gen Pope had two Reg of pickets on the other side of the swamp. These were driven in but Gen Pope had his whole force drawn up and ready to cross the swamp. In halh an hour Gen Beul sent twenty thousand under Gen Nelson to support Pope. The SS advanced half way across the swamp. The Rebels came in force within one hundred and fifty rods of us and burned a bridge. Their whole line fired volly after volly into the swamp and their cannon threw shell and shot but werwere secure behind trees. The enemy soon retired but the whole of Genls Pope and Nelsons forces remained in line all night expecting an attack. The SS start in the swamp in the advance, The result of it is I had the tooth acke dreadfully and now one side of my face is swolen up as large as four faces ought to be. It has pained me severely and does yet but it is nothing dangerous and I can stand it and do duty so long as I can drink coffee and eat soup. This is all I can eat now. More than half of the time since we have been here we have slept under trees, with our sword and Revolver (?) on. Our men, you might say sleeps all the while on their arms. Every man is required to sleep with his equipment by his side. I see the Chicago Papers have attempted to tell how Gen Popes army is Brigaded. I think they have not one right. Col. Morgan commands the first Brigade and is composed of the tenth and sixteenth Ills the tenth and fourteenth Michigan and the Yates Sharp Shooters. The fifty first Ill is considered the poorest regiment in the army. Gen Pope calls it the "Band Box Reg." The officers are good enough and brave enough to conduct a dress parade but when it comes in the field where the bullets whize and shells burst they are found wanting. Last Fridays work proves this. They were on the Reg out on picket duty. The officers and men made a most disgraceful retreat offering no opposition at all to the advancing force. I saw the men coming in few together some without guns or knapsacks. I saw a Lieut coming through the woods all alone. The forty second was the other Reg out on picket. It retreated in good order. Col Roberts threw out his right and left companies as skermishes to prevent his regiment from being surrounded and offered a determined opposition to the advancing foe and so retarded its progress that Gen Pope had time to get his army in readiness to fight. Had there been another Regiment like the 51st instead of the 42nd out on picket there is no possible doubt but we would have been cut to pieces and Popes whole army surprised as was Gen Grant. Great indignation is felt toward the 51st. If Col Cummings had been able to command it would have been different

would like to know when Gen Hallock is going to take Corinth. It may be that he will take it tomorrow and maybe not for six weeks.

Lottie I have got pretty well used to fighting. Col Morgan says we have done as much fighting as any equal number of men from Ills. At first I did not like it at all. When a bullet would whiz close by me, I thought the next might come closer, But too many have pass me now to be so thoughtful of them. I do not crave them yet. When in the rye field a ball struck very close my feet and I commenced poking it around with my boot when several balls came very close to my head. Some of the Rebel SS had discovered me and and was making a target of my head. I am well except my face. It is a shame that none of you do not write.

From your Brother

JSReynolds

13 A

In Camp three miles East of Corinth, Miss.
May 26th 1862

Sister Lottie

Last evening I received your letter of the 19th. You certainly must have been in excellent humor , for you wrote more news than you have before for two months. I slept much better for having received such letter. You think it is strange that the S.S. are not often mentioned in the Chicago papers. It is plain why they are not. The S.S. are in the advance when marching and when encamped and no persons except the commanding officers are allowed to come as far out as we are. A few days since a reporter of the Chicago Times made his way out to our camp but was here only a few minutes till he was under arrest and marched back to the Guard House between two bayonets. The Correspondents are allowed to visit only the rear troops and they know nothing of what is going on ahead except from reports and they are never correct. The account of Regiments engaged, in the Chicago Papers is incorrect always. Some time ago when Gen Paine went so close to Corinth and found a masked Battery, the Papers were loud in praise of Gen. Palmer and his troops, when the fact id Gen. Palmer and his troops were in Camp all day and Col. Morgan and his brigade were the ones that did the work. That day we lost one man killed and two wounded. Capt. Grover of Joliet discovered the battery and Capt Moralls and our Company went within fifty rods of the enemys line of battle, yet according to Chicago Papers it was the Birge's S.S. that did all this, when they were not within sixteen miles of here.

You spoke of the boys I enlisted. Several of them have gone home sick.- Oscar Hudson, Louis Row and George Beaumont. One has died-- John Depny, whose folks live South of Fathers about five miles. The rest of the boys are well. Wm Schell is a Sergeant and a first class soldier. Ward Knickerbocker is quite sick. He has been in the Hospita l about a week and is no better. He has the billious fever. I do not think he is dangerous.

A battle now does not seem so immenent as it did a week agatwo ago though we are now right in the face of the foe and see their pickets every day. About one hundred rods back of our camp a very high pole has been set up and a man remains on top of it with glass. He can see the top of houses in Corinth and the fortifications on hills around Corinth, the movement of troops on the elevations back and to the south west of town. He can also see the cars go and come on the Ohio and Mobile R.R. and says they are either bringing in or carrying out many troops for very long passenger trains are constantly running. It is very quiet here now. Our Battalion has no picket duty to do, nor any other duty except to use the rifle. I have a splendid Enfield Rifle that one of our boys took from a rebel sharp shooter he killed. I think a good deal of it and will take it home with me, if I can. A.F. Moore, who married Amaline Hines (you knew her, she has deformed arms and hands) killed the rebel and gave me the gun. The Paymaster is paying off the men in our brigade and we will get our pay in a few days. Since I commenced this, Oscar Hudson has returned to camp. He is hearty and stout.

You may think because the SS. are not noticed in the Chicago Papers that they are not in any Papers. But that is not the case. In the St. Louis Republican of the 13th there was a column and a half devoted to the Yates S.S. exclusively. There has been several articles in the N.Y. World and others papers that I have seen in which we are honorably mentioned. A list of killed and wounded in our Bat was published in the Tribune (Chicago) of the 21st. We are perfectly satisfied with our position as S.S. The Bat has the praise of every

Commanding Officer in this division from Gen Pope down. It speaks well, too, for the Bat that Gen Pope should assign as our immediate support the four best regiments in his division--the 10th and 16th Ills and 14th MO. At the request of the officers of the Bat. the 51st was removed and the 16th Ills put in its place as our left center support. The 51st acted just as I was afraid they would when crowded and it is only the large quantity of brandy that is wasted on the reporters who have hung about the regiment, why they have not been denounced by those knowing and truthful fellows just as the 77th Ohio was at the Pittsburg Landing fight. You said Sarah would write soon I do hope she will, and Charles, too.

Write often From your Brother

JS Reynolds

Camp Big Springs, Miss.
June 23rd/62

14

Sister Lottie,

I received your letter of the 15th inst this morning and, as Capt Grover of Joliet is going home in the morning I will answer and send it by him to Joliet. He has been unfit for duty a long time and is going home to recruit his health and will return if well enough, about the twelfth of July. Lottie, I've just eaten my supper. Warm biscuit, potatoes, fried ham, pickles, butter, blackberry pie and a little catawba (just to keep off the ague and coole a fellow in this dreadful hot climate) made up my supper. I am as hearty as a buck. Our captain and 1st Lieut are both in poor health, and Lieut Baker will start home in a dayor two and the Capt is very desirous of going home.

There is no longer any danger of the enemy disturbing us: So Gen Rosecrand ordered that all the loaded guns in camp should be shot off this morning at precisely five oclock. One hundred and forty eight of the S.S. had their guns loaded and I was placed in command of them to march them to Gen. Morgan's Headquarters where all his command was to meet to fire their guns. Here I found about five thousand men for the same purpose as I brought mine. The S.S. were put on the lead of this long string of "Blue Jackets" and when we had marched about a mile up the rail road the men were all fronted and they all at the same time fired their guns. Over five thousand men firing their guns at once is something worth hearing and seeing. Now we are here with unloaded guns and as quiet and safe as though we were in Camp Douglas.

We are very anxious about Richmond affairs. It seems to me that Gen MacLellen has got more than he can do there. I wish the President would order Gen Pope to Richmond I would like to go there and have a hand in that affair. I did not write home for some time after Corinth was evacuated. I had nothing to write with and nothing to write on unless I had written on the coat-tail of a fleeing Rebel with my sword point.

Orders have been isued from headquarters to the effect that no officer will be granted a leave of absence unless on the account of severe disability. My prospects are not very good at present for a leave of absence. I expect to be at home some time between now and Christmas. I broke my sword blade the other day close to the hilt, and am now without a dress sworde. But one to fight with. An old secesh one, and a savage looking thing it is, too. It isabout as long as a sythe, sharp and heavy. The day Corinth was evacuated I with eight men was out scouting towards Dansville when we suddenly came upon twenty four Rebel Cavalry, and fired into them. They posted off as fast as their horses would carry them and one ofthem in his great haste dropped his sword which I relieved him the trouble of picking up. That is the one I have now. But I am in need of a dress sword as the regulations of war demand it. There is no chance of getting one here without paying about four prices for it and that I won't do. Wonder if my numerous Friends will not make me a present of a thirty dollar sworde? If they should it would not make me sick, very.

I see by the papers the new constitution is adopted. I am sorry but so it is. Thousands in the army had no opportunity of voting upon it. That was our fix. Write how all the folks are at home, how Fathers health is this summer and mothers too, and Grandmothers. I am running my lines crooked so I had better stop.

Your Brother JSReynolds

Camp Big Springs, Miss, July 8th/62

15

Camp big Springs Miss. July 8 62

Dear Brother Charles,

I got your letter today. It contained lots of news. I would like to have been at Fathers to have spent the fourth with you all. But I could not possibly get off as I have had charge of the Company for some time. Our Capt. is sick, Lieut Baker went home sick so you see I am alone. There is strong talk of Gen Paines division going to Richmond at once. I hope it is so. We should have gone there two weeks ago and helped Mclellen. It is sad news we got from Richmond now. Though the papers say Gen. McLellen has got the best of it, I cannot see how that is, from all accounts. It seems to me he is badly worsted so far. But he may come out with his army all right yet.

General Rosecrans is commanding the army of the Mississppi now--Gen. Popes old army. He is a fine man--Common as an old farmer, but a strict and energetic officer. He reminds one, in many respects, of Gen Pope. It would have been our delight to have gone with Gen Pope. His whole army wanted to go with him.

I have been quite busy to-day and will be for some days to come, if we do not move. General Rosecrans has ordered a court martial to try some soldiers. I am Judge Advocate of this court and find the duties not very light. The Court Martial was in session today and will take several days to finish up the business before it.

I was quite sick for a week with the billious fever and jaundice. The latter still hang about me, yet I am feeling quite well. I suppose Parker is up in Western Tennessee. I have not seen nor heard anything of him. I dont know what General David is under. I would like to hear from them. Our Colonel has gone home also our Adjutant, three captains and four Lieuts have resigned and gone home. They have got enough fighting.

Tell Sarah she must be very busy indeed, if she finds no time to write, as often as you do at least. Write often,

Your Brother JSReynolds

Camp Big Springs, Miss
July 14th 1862

Dear Brother,

Yesterday I wrote to Lottie stating how long it had been since I had received a letter from home, but all is right now. All the back mail come today. Four letters and a paper for me.--one from you, one from Lottie, one from Hattie and one from Lieut Baker. It makes a feller feel bully here to get a good big mail. I was surprised to hear that Joe and Newcomb are lawing it. I dont like lawing myself but if Joe is right I say go in to the last. He must look out and keep a good understanding with Tonner. I do not understand how it is that Joe is sued and not Tonnor. I wish Joe would inform me. I am entirely in the dark. I have not heard yet how that matter was settled with Granger and how the one hundred and one little matters have been arranged.

John, how mysterious that fourth of July affair of yours and Lotties is. You wrote that Joe, yourself, Lottie and Miss--went to Morris." Lottie wrote "JH and Co. went to Morris instead of Chicago." Hattie wrote about as follows that "JH & Lottie and two others went to Morris." How mighty funny, funny all that is. I can make this out of it. Joe took Lottie and they went to Morris to celebrate the fourth. JH took Helen Snood and went to Morris to celebrate the fourth. Is not this the long & short of it. I tell you John If I ever went with as fine a young Lady as miss Helen I would write not Miss--but Miss Helen Snood In full type.

John do not be too fast about enlisting. The new regiments that have come down here this summer have suffered greatly with sickness. Often out of nine or ten hundred men only two or three hundred are fit for duty. Those which enlisted during last winter and got use to a soldiers fare during cold weather stands it much better here. I would never enlist during hot weather, and besides a better chance may offer itself to you by fall.

I heard about the fourth that Ward had got home, but today I saw his name in the paper as beeing in Keokuk, Iowa. I wish he could get home. Ive not heard from him in a long time.

Write soon,

your Bro Joseph

Camp Big Springs, Miss. July 26

17

Dear Brother Willie,

Hurrah for you Bill!! I have just got your letter and it tells me how many calves and colts you have on the farm. It tells when ou commenced haying, and how the grass looks this year, how high the corn is, how all the grain looks, and the fruit looks, too.
Now, Willie, this is just what I have been wanting to know ever since last May and, lo! I have found it out at last. I have been pretty sick again since I wrote. It is my Liver that bothers me so much. I am pretty well now, again , and I think I will get along by being careful. I f I get down very sick I will go home at once. I can leave here at six in the morning and arrive at Chicago at nine the next day evening, so you see it is not so long a trip in time , if it is in distance. It is rail road all the way except from Columbus to Cairo --twenty miles and boats that distance.

Master Numa what do you think of this war? Dont you think Mr Lincoln and his cabinet have played with and petted the Rebels long enough I think he has, and I have thought so for months. There is ground for hope now fromtthe way Lincoln talks, but I fear it will be the same old thing in less than month. I am sure of one thing. that is , if Lincoln is guided by General Halleck we may fight till doomsday and the rebels will be stronger accordingly than we are. Gen. Halleck's protecting policy never will put down the rebellion. If things go on as they have done I will leave the army and go to Australia where I will never hear of our Country's disgrace The girls write of your plowing corn all alone. How would you like to plow corn with fory or fifty negro boys & girls in the field as there is here? You would not get lonesome then. I would rather be in a field alone than where such baboons are.

You must write such good letters often.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

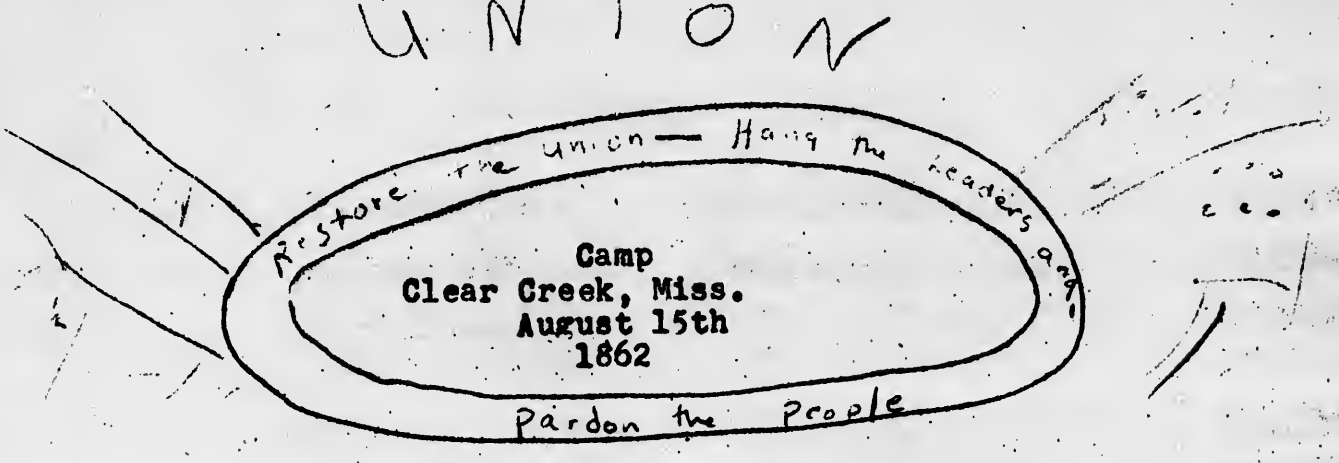
Camp Clear Creek, Miss. Aug 13th/62

Dear Sister Lottie,
I got a letter from you a day or two since and will answer it this evening. We have moved our camping place again. A prettier place you never saw than we now occupy. From where I now sit I can look down into the deep glen before me and by raising my eye I can plainly see General Rosecrans quarters on the hill beyond. Notwithstanding this the trees stand very thick but they are so very strait and tall and not a limb is there less than forty or fifty feet from the ground. The tops of the trees are very heavy and widespread and they often touch The like of such I never saw up North. My tent is under one of those trees and the sun hardly touches it the whole day. I have a large walled tent and in it my bunk which is about three feet high and very easy to sleep on, my writing desk, hat rack, which nothing more nor less than a hickory pole set in the ground with the limbs cut about four inches long, an old man's chair made from a barrel(such as Mr. Haines had in his store) a camp stool, my trunk, a seller 4 by 4 and three feet deep and in this butter, Bread, Cheese, potatoes $2.50 per bu, ginger snaps, a can of raspberries, etc. etc.

Lottie you may ere this have heard of our great loss in the death of Major Matteson . He died on the eighth of Aug of Typhoid fever. Mr. & Mrs. Goodell of Joliet arrived a few hours before his death. Our Colonel has been absent since the evacuation of Corinth and probably will never be able to join us again. The hardships of the approach to Corinth were to great for him. I got a letter from Mrs. Lieut Baker yesterday; she said Lieut Baker was sick abed and she was afraid he had the quick consumption. Capt Payne is also absent and I think he will never return. So you see I am the only officer left in our Co. and I have command I sign my name to official papers like this."JSReynolds Lieut. Command Co F." Capt John Morrell commands the Battalion. He is a farmer and lives near Uncle Peter Millers. He was in the Mexican war under Col. Harden. How is Park's Company getting along? He cannot get his discharge, I think, untill he is commissioned Capt. I got a letter from Colonel Mack of the Kankakee Valley Regiment. He promised me the Captaincy of a Company which he is raising for his regiment. Mrs. Baker wrote me that the Company was now full and when I refused the Captaincy Col. Mack offered it to Lieut Baker. I prefer my place to that of a captain of common infantry. Lieut Baker does the same.

You must keep me posted in respect to what the war excitement is effecting in your neighborhood. Tell me who goes. Is Henry really enlisted? What has Joe Couger enlisted as? A clerk or what not? Tell Isaac that home is the best place for him the hardships of war would be too much for him Then Father needs him worse than the U.S. Oscar Hudson's Father left here the 9th for their homes I sent $150.00 by him to Father and a Book and secesh fife. I also sent my likeness by him. If he had not been down Father had better send up at once. I got a letter from Hattie and one from Abram yesterday. I Answered Abramsat once and will Hatties soon. I am getting hearty as a Buck. write often Your Brother JSReynolds

Lottie I wrote this double quick so dont look at mistakes.



Dear Sister Hattie,

And it is you sure, Hattie, that I am after writing to this time. Faith and I have written three letters home within even so many days And it is one I sent Sarah and anoth to Abram and troth another yet to Lottie. Arn't I myself a genuine St. Patrick? And by the Holy Virgin Ive drove all the frogs out of ould Ireland and it is me that will be after driving all your patience away by writing you so many letters.

But its not only home that I write sure, for about twenty letters I have got from some of our boys who have sneaked away but who have been notified to return at once or be considered deserters. Some write me that they are lame some that they are blind and others that they are sick--all over sick. I write them all that they must either send an "army surgeons Certificate of disability" or rejoin their Company before the 18th inst else be considered as deserters and shot. I have no patience with those cowards who deserted us while in the face of the enemy and just as soon as the 18th is past I will have every one who has not returned and I know to be well, arrested and brought here for trial.

All the troops are mustered next monday, the 18th. Before that time I have three muster in rolls to make out--one for the Secretary of War, one for the Adjutant General of Illinois and one for myself. This will be no little job, but I have Ward to help me. He is quite well again. So am I. I hear that George Wagner enlisted, if so tell father to keep Abram's moneyttill he hears from me again. You know I sent it with mine by Mr. Hudson. Gen. Rosecrans Adjutant has just informed me that I would be "officer of the day" tomorrow I dont like it this hot weather, for the "Officer of the day" mustbe in full uniform with coat buttoned up, sash over the Shoulder and around the waist and the belt and the sword on and in addition on such occasions I wear the French bootes,wehe forage Cap and gauntlets. I do this to please the General in whose presence I am a good deal when "officer of the day" and who has a peculiar notion that everyone should be dressed according to his calling He has put three of the Battalion officers under arrest for neglect of duty while "officer of day" They are Capt Grover Lieut Moore and Lieut Manning.

I am going to Corinth soon to get me a coat and a pair of pants. They will cost about forty dollars there.

Your Brother JSReynolds

Hattie, wont you have Pa buy me a dollars worth of stamps and send me in your next letter (They are not to be had here now)

I-ri-ka, Miss. Sept 1st 1862

My Dear Sister,

When I arrived in camp last evening, I found your letter lying on my table. You wrote me that Henry was going with Parker. This surprised me as Lottie wrote only a few days since that he was coming down here, with Lieut Baker. To be sure I should be much pleased to have him in the Company with me, but if he so wishes. Go, I say, by all means into Parker's Co. Parker I know will do the fair thing by him, and it is no small item in a soldier's welfare, especially in war times like these, to be under a sensible, friendly and feeling Captain.

Had he come here he, no doubt, would have seen fighting sooner and more of it this fall than if in a new regiment for many days pass before Generals Price and Armstrong will either have to fight or run. General Rosecrans Army is all ready to move forward and he only awaits the arrival of a few new Regiments to guard the towns along the Charleston and Memphis. R.R. where large amount of Army Commissary stores are. General Rosecrans force is about forty thousand and General Prices the same and on both sides old troops. Bureaugard is expected to take command of the Missippi army again and Gen. Rosecrans is anxious to give the heroes of Corinth at least one rout before the old man himself arrives. Our Battalion is promised its old place again- the advance guard of this army when it shall move south. When this was announced the boys cheered round after round until they were hoarse. This was on Dress Parade and Gen. Rosecrans made the announcement himself. I think the Battalion boys stand in good favor with the General. They at least receive a good share of his patrimony One of them has received the appointment of mail agent on the Mobile & Ohio R.R. from Paducah to Corinth; another one the same on the M & C R R from Corinth to Decatur. The division Post Master is a S.S. and also the Brigad P.M. General Rosecrans has two clerks from the Batt. Gen Stanley one and the Provost Marshal one. Also eight are on detached service as detectives in the army. They look out for any irregularities in the army, for those who smuggle whisky into the lines and are on the look-out for spies. Not a few sutler(?) shops have been confiscated through their agencies and some officers court martialed and two spies caught. Two of those detectives are from our Company.

In the Court Martials appointed by Gen. Rosecrans there are always a good sprinkling of Battalion officers. For a long time Captain Grover and myself were members of a General Court Martial-- I, as Judge Advocate,

You spoke in your letter of my not gambling as do a great many in the army. Of course I don't. I never had any inclination to drink and carouse or gamble. I see too much of it around me & the bad effect it causes to become a dupe myself. I have received five months pay and sent home five hundred dollars($500.00)

I have received a little present of which I am quite proud when I consider from what source it came and for what it was given. You remember in the last letter I wrote Charles I spoke of being at the head of a scouting party that captured three Secesh Soldiers and one Citizen. Besides the three horses saddles and navy revolvers I found on the person of one of the prisoners a most beutifully finished Revolver, a secesh shooter and silver mounted. Thes three prisoners turned out to be Guerillas and they were summerly disposed of. Their arms etc. fell to U.S. But Gen Rosecrans ordered the revolver above spoken of to be presented to me as a token etc etc. Who would not be a solder under such circumstances?

I had my picture taken today. I will send it to Birdie. It is in a very small round case. No more tonight.

From your Brother

JS Reynolds

Corinth Oct 6th 1862 H A

Dear Sister,

We are still in Corinth, but I tell you it was much as a bargin that our forces held the town. The Rebels were perfectly deperate and fought like mad men. On the third of Oct. the fight was kept up from eight in the morning till dark. On the left our forces drove the enemy from the field, the first day and the enemy drove us on the right. On the second day(Oct 4th) the rebels made a dreadful charge on the left, but were repulsed with great slaughter. In about one and a half hour after the first charge the combined forces of the enemy made a second charge on the town from the north west. Here was the most desperate fighting of the day. Two Brigades charged at once in Column by division and at a double quick. Two siege batteries are posted on the N.W. side of town and our forces were drawn up in double line of battle connecting these two batteries and also one line of battle extended some ways on the out sides of these batteries At first the Rebels drove our forces back about fifty rods and got possession of both our batteries and about half the town. But our troops finally rallied and such a seen I never again want to witness. Eleven of our Battalion fell dead and thirty nine wounded. The contest remained undecided- sometimes leaning towards one side sometimes the other- for about twenty minutes. During this time the enemy made continuous efforts to raise or plant their flag upon our forts, but no oftener was the attempt made than the flag and flag bearere fell from the parapet together. Our Battalion paid its especial attention to the upper fort or the Rebels in and about it, and at that very place the enemy began first to give way. No sooner was it known along our lines that the Rebels were giving away on our Right than our whole line commenced advancing and such wild shouts as were heard along our lines was enough to frighten even a Rebel. When the rebels saw that our men were going to give them a hand to hand fight they turned and sought the woods like frightened sheep. Our men were just in the hight of their joy when lo! Two new Brigades of the Rebels were rushing at double quick time directly towards our lines. Though Regiments now were all mixed up, order prevailed along the whole line the moment the enemy was seen advancing and an earnest and determined look at once took the place of the wild confusion of joy. This last charge was met most gallantly by the Union boys. Not a foot of our line gave way, but every man stood up nobly and increased the withering volley that was so rapidly thinning the solid rank of the foe. The enemy pushed on when to do so was certain death. They were more than brave--even reckless. Three officers advanced the last time mounted but not one mounted officer returned. Two of the horses run wildly off the field and the third officer and horse fell together. Their Regimental officers were all on foot. When the enemy commenced the retreat it was done with order, but soon it became a general stamp and it was kept up till far beyond the range of our siege guns. Now the fresh battle field was awful to behold. Many a union soldier lay dead or wounded, but the enemy was inpplaces piled up- the wounded was often weighed down to the ground and there held by the lifeless body of a comrad. The fighting was in progress yesterday and is still progressing near Chawalla. The Reports say that our troops are cutting up the Secesh dreadfully. Our Battalion did not go in pursuit. They are too badly cut up to do much for awhile. Capt Grover is badly wounded by a ball passing through the center of his body. Capt Stewert of our Bat. is badly wounded. Lieut Clark killed. Lieut Conger wounded. Lieut Thomoson commanding Co "B" Lieut Cameron comd'g Co "A" Lieut Reynolds comd'g Co "F" and Capt Morrell comd'g the Battalion came through the action unharmed though each one I think has something particular to remember the day by. For inst. a spent ball hit me during the action on my left leg and brought me down but two of the boys raised me up and in a few moments the numbness left my leg and I soon put it in operation again and was at once ahead of my company. Soon after this a ball broke the ring that held my scabbard to the belt but I could

not take time to pick it up but in the end I got a Secesh scabbard that my sword just fit in. I am pretty lame but am able to take care of Company "F". I will be all right in a day or two. Corp Albert Ashley is pretty badly wounded but not dangerously. Seven privates were wounded in my Company. Ward came out all strait. A train of cars came in today from Columbus & brought a letter from you. Not much danger of a cake spoiling coming to Corinth by Express nor anything else that is good to eat. You will understand this. Adam's Express has an office here. I am somewhat of a hurry for my Valise or hand trunk as we may be ordered to march at any moment and we cannot take a trunk. I have sent to Charlie for a sword etc. The one I now have is a poor thing. Write often I cannot tell you a tenth part of the news. Send this to Sarah I will not have time to write her soon.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Corinth Oct 16'/62 22

My dear Mother ,

I will write a line tonight. For five days I have been pretty sick but today am much better. For near three months I had the chronic diarrhea and it stopped all at once on me and I thought I was all right-- but not quite so. I immediately became very costive which threw me into a fever. when the fever was broken there was strong symptoms of information on the Bowels The Dr. says my head is worth a hundred pr, ck, vet. I have every possible care here, and you need have no fear of my welfare for I will be well soon. nothing is the matter of me now but weakness. If you have not sent that Box, it will be safe now send a letter a day or two before sending it. Also one same day. More in a day or two.

Truly your son JSReynolds

Camp of the Yates Sharpshooters
Glendale Miss April 15/63

23

Sister Lottie,

Last evening I wrote to Abram but I'll send a few lines to-night. Come to find out the truth our fight yesterday amounted to much more than we expected till this morning. The rebel force that attacked us was something over two thousand men while ours did not exceed two hundred and fifty. Our men repulsed them so easily we thought they were not more than five hundred. We killed and wounded more than was first reported. It would be almost impossible to take our works here. They have been much improved since Abram was down. Gen Dodge was here today with an army of about twelve thousand men and eighteen pieces of artillery. He complimented our Colonel and his men for their conduct yesterday. Gen Dodge and his division are moving on south east and you will hear of them next at or near Florence Al. where Bragg's lift wing rests

We are anxious to hear the result at Charleston. All well here. write often.

Your Brother
JSReynolds

24

Camp of the Yates S.S.
Glendale Miss May 24/63

Sister Lottie,

If you get this before Sergt. Scheel starts back I wish you would send me my "Intellectual Philosophy." I sent home by him one vol. of Harper's Magazines, unbound, "Paul's Letters" and "Moores Works," The latter book belonged to Capt. Cameron who was killed in the fight at Bear Creek. You will see a good many passages which he marked. One of them he said would apply to him some day and sure enough it did for now he is dead and his sword lies beside him. I want to get that book bound over again and keep it.

Sergt. Scheel will tell you all the news. I tried to get a photograph to send Pa and Ma by Sergt. Scheel but it was so warm and dusty I could not get a good one so I had two ambrotypes taken. One was tolerable good but the other good for nix I would be mighty well pleased to see Sergt scheel bring your picture and Pa's and Ma's and all the rest that I have not got.

Your Brother

JosS. Reynolds

Camp of the Yates Sharpshooters
Glendale Mis-, June 20th/63 25

Dear Brother Isaac,

Well my boy, how is it that I do not hear from you. When I received your excellent letter a long time since, I thought I would get one of the same kind at least every week, but here it is so long a time and I've got none yet. I rec'd a letter from Lottie stating that Sergt Scheel was sick and I have not heard from home or from Scheel since. I am anxious to know how he is. We expect a fight on our hands here every day and he is the kind of a man we want. Yesterday, late in the afternoon Gen Dodge telegraphed to our Colonel that the enemy several thousand strong were advancing on Glendale with five pieces of artillery. We lay on our arms all night and at day break this morning a scout ing party went out and captured three prisoners The enemy is close on every side of us and not a man of us leaves the fort unless on a scout. There is no cavalry here or at Corinth. We expect it back soon when there will be an effort made to drive the enemy back. There is most certainly some important movement going on among the Rebels and their efforts are to prevent us from knowing it. They are pretty successful, too. Not a scout or spy of ours have arrived from Dixie for some time. I do not know as we can get this letter through to Corinth. The rebs are between here and Corinth. I am well, and feeling finely. Our pickets have been fired upon several times lately, but the boys do not show the least fear and seem anxious to meet the enemy. You must write soon. If you hear of a fight near here tell the folks not to be uneasy. All will be right

Your Brother

Joe

Glendale, Miss, Sept. 24th 1863

26

Sister Hattie,

Your letter has just been received. I was mighty glad to get it. It seems a month since I left Chicago, though it was only ten days. The boy killed was not in my Company but in B. Two of my boys died while I was absent--Geo W Williams of Ills and Wm A Taylor of Alabama. Wm Scheel is very low and can hardly get well. I had a very pleasant trip down here and arrived on time at my Regiment.

I have been ten miles south of here since my return with sixty men. We were after guerrilas but could find none. The country is overrun with them, but they take to the swamps whenever any force of our men approach.

It is reported here tonight that Genl. Rosecrans is defeated. We do not believe it. It may be so- for the enemy is gathering all his forces in front of Rosecrans. I should think Gen Grant would send Reenforcements to Gen Rosecrans. It is known that Genl. Johnson has gone to reenfoce Bragg.

Hattie you must give me a full account of your trip to Cairo & co. I will read it with much interest. I do not suppose Birdie will go with you on account of her school. She would enjoy it very much. It would be good schooling for here.

I am in excellent health.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Camp of the Yates Sharpshooters
Glendale Miss, Oct 11th 1863 27

Sister Lottie,

I have just returned from a tramp through the camps of the different Regiments here. The 15th army Corps is here and parts of the 14th and 17th also. Gen Sherman is in command of the troops moving east to Rosecrans. We are under Gen. Hurlbut, who is reported will soon move eastward

My house is finished and a good one, too, it is. It is covered with shingles made by the boys, and sided up with nice pine boards that a rebel kindly made, and left for us when he went south. The house is divided into two rooms-- one a bed and dressing room, the other an office. There is a good sized window in each, besides a sky-light directly over my desk. In the office there is a neat little fireplace all lined with sheet iron. It draws powerfully and my negro would be in danger of going up the chimney when he is replenishing the fuel if it were not for his feet. You know all negroes have large feet. We have a stove for our bed room which we will put up when it gets cold enough for a stove.

You see if we stay here I am all right for the winter if we move someone else will be all right in our house, for there will be troops here all winter.

Peter Onder of Joliet and Andrew Eagen of Locksport were captured four miles north of here four days since and taken to Sulphur Springs eighteen miles hence and shot. They both were Sharpshooters. Sergt Scheel has been sent to Memphis. He is better.

I send you today three pictures-- Wards, Lt. Moore's and Charley Cogles. Lt. Moore is a son of A.H. Moore whouse to be President of the L.A. and St. L.R.R. Charles BeCagle is a federal spy, and refugee pilot. He is from northern Alabama and travels the country, just as you see him in the picture, in his hunting rig.

I have written a sketch of his life for Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper and sent one of his pictures to be coppied.

I am well--am ten pounds heavier now than when I was home.

Write often

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Pulaski Giles Co, Tenn.
Nov 16th 1863

28

Brother Charles

We have been now three or four days in this place. We had a pleasant trip here though it was on foot. The country through which we passed was interesting to me It abounded in high hills and deep ravines. The citizens were almost all secesh. Some had fine houses and plantations and others lived in old log houses. Gen Dodge has a splendid army It would march from morning till night as regular and orderly as though it was morning on the drill ground. Our Battalion is Genl Dodge's Hd Qrs. Know. This makes it easy for us. We have to put on a good deal of style and keep everything in order, but our duty is light. The General told me the other day that he was the engineer who first surveyed the rout for the Ills Cent R.R. This is a very pretty town quite as larg as Joliet as to houses. The inhabitants are strong secesh. This, Giles Co. is the strongest secesh hole in the state. At the last election for Gov. it voted fifteen for the union candidate. The young ladies can hardly hold themselves. They hate the blue coats worse than poison. I told some of them that they would soon get as tame as kittens. They thought not, so long as the Yankees were about. I was to church twice last Sunday at the methodist church The minister is secesh. It was very hard work for him to preach but he blundered through it. He said not a word about the Government, nor soldier. It sounded like old times to hear the Church bells ring. There are three larg Churches in town. I have not heard from Chicago since we left Glendale.

I hope to hear soon.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Pulaski Tenn Nov 20th 1863

29

Dear Brother,

I dont hear any thing from you, but I suppose you are about to be married and your time is all occupied in getting ready. How is the Curly Headed girl, Billy. I want to know all about her. Have you and Pa bought a mate for my young horse yet? I hope you will get one just like him. If you would get me several young horses I would like it. I may want one to ride some day. You must write me how my horse gets along, how all fathers stock is doing, and all about the farm. The girls write the news of the neighborhood but say nothing about the farm. They leave that for you to do and now you must do it. I saw a man hung the other day. He was a rebel spy and was hung by our men within two days after he was caught. The gallows was put on a hill so that the whole town could se him strung up. It made the Rebs look cross enough but they dare not open their mouths. I was close by when he was hung and he showed not the least sign of fear or emotion. He said he knew his fate if he was caught, and died doing his duty. He was a true soldier , though awfully misled. The gallows is left standing as a warning to all rebels.

I was to church to day and heard a good sermon preached by a chaplain; He gave the rebel citizens fits, and they had to grin and bear it though it was in their own house. It is a fine church such as they have in Chicago-- I see Charles has had a present--what kind of a thing is it? Have Master Numa write and let me know how Pa and Ma are and all the folks and Charley especially.

Your Brother

J3Reynolds

Pulaski Tennessee
December 5th 1863

Sister Lottie,

I have just rec'd a letter of yours dated November 15th I wish you would send me the Tribune that had a notice of my promotion. I have not seen it. I also got a letter from Miss. Jennie and her picture. It is a good one. I have not received Miss Lydia and Miss Jane's pictures yet nor Cousin Louise's. Why did not Isaac send me one of his? I wrote home a day or two since and have no news now to write. I am in health good, better best. Am twenty pounds heavier now than I was when at home. rite often

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Pulaski Tennessee
December 24 1863

31

Sister Lottie,

I will send this by Robert Russell to some P.O. in Illinois. Russell is my bugler and a first rate boy,- a Virginian and withall as smart as you find them of his age. I send him up to recruit for my company. He is going to Lincoln, Ills first and maybe up to father's and to Chicago. I gave him a letter to Pa and one to Charles so that you will know him. My boys are all anxious to reenlist and will as soon as we can get the proper blanks. What do you think of my enlisting for three years more. I am going certain if the war lasts that long I want an hundred men by next march. I am pleased to hear that Shell is getting along so well. If our army is well filled up this winter the rebs will show the white feather before next fall and we all will be home by next New Years., a year. I cannot write much tonight. Tomorrow is Christmas and I will be on duty as Officer of the Day, but you need not think we are not going to have Christmas dinner--Turkey and Oysters and all <u>sich</u> nice things we are going to have.

I am well and feeling bully

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Decatur Alabama
Mch 24/64

Sister Lottie,

I wrote Charles yesterday and will you today. You see we have got pretty well down in Dixie so soon. The "Rebs" are close about but they will not disturb us, I guess. The first night we slept in Alabama we were snowed under a foot. You should have seen us the next morning crawling out of the snow. The recruits had awful long faces then but said never a word. It is warm as spring here now and the ground is fast drying off. This is a very nice town on the south side of the Tennessee Rivere. Gen Stephenson is in command and we are his Head Quarter Guard. Dont you see how lucky we are again. Our men have all got their arms and my two Lieuts are drilling the Co. now. I am writing this on Miss Ballows desk in a well furnished room. I have a good bed to sleep in and about an hundred volumes of good books in the Book Case. The family has a son prisoner in Rock island and one here at home with one arm shot off. He was with Bragg in Tennessee and Ky and withall is a right clever fellow now that he has lost an arm You must send me your picture that I forgot. I had a hard cold a day or two but it is about gone now.

Tell all the folks to write

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Direct

Decatur, Alabama
Via Nashville

Decatur Ala.
April 7th 1864

Dear Sister Hattie,

I have just rec'd your letter of March 31st. It was just a week coming. We have got a long way south but you will hear of us being still farther down ere long I think. I am glad to hear that Abram has got a place on the R.R. and that out of Chicago. I wrote Sarah last night. A letter from Sarah last night and yours to night is all the letters I have received from the north which were written since I left.

There has been a big scare here all day. A large force of the enemy is reported twelve miles out. There is a force out there for the ninth Ills. was repulsed, but I have no idea that they will attack this place. Everything is in readiness for the enemy if they should come. You say Elder was at Pa's and he spoke of his son in our Regiment. I don't know who you mean unless Elder Crews. His son is 2nd Lt in Capt Logan's Co., and is a good officer.

I am glad you sent me Isaac's picture. it is a good one. Why dont Lottie send me hers that I left there. I am entirely well again. I was pretty sick for a week or more.

Write often

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Decatur Ala
April 19th 1864

34

Dear Sister

I rec'd your letter several days since but everything has been in such an uproar here that I have had no opportunity to answer it till now. The enemy is all around us and every approach to the town is strongly picketed by them. Our pickets have been skermishing with the enemy cavalry for several days. This morning some of the new recruits in my company were on the Moulton road in the advance and the rebel Cavalry run on them. They stood their ground and sent Mr Reb's howling back. I have no idea they intend to attack this place, else they would have done so before this. The enemy certainly is in large force and are here for no good. Every Regiment in town was up and in line at three in the morning for several mornings. It is soldiering we are doing now what is soldiering and I enjoy it, too. It is pretty dull when nothing is going on and the enemy miles away. Yesterday one brigade was out drilling and the Reb's were on a hill south of here looking at them. It was cool, dont you think.

When we find out the force and the position of the enemy General Veatch may move out some fine morning and try their fighting qualities. He dare not do it now for fear they might come in his rear and cut him off from the river.

I am well again and in the best of spirits. I hear from home or Chicago very seldom.

I will write again soon Please run this to Pa's as I have no time to write more now

Your Bro.

JSReynolds

Decatur Ala
April 20/64 35

ear Sister

I rec'd your letter last night while I was writing one to Sarah. It looks as warlike as ever this morning. About fifty rebel cavalry road up to our pickets this morning, early. and called out that they were union soldiers. They were dressed like our men but the pickets knew that none of our men were out and they fired at the rebs and drove them back. I never saw men act as the enemy does here now They do not attack us in force but will fight our men like tigers whenever they go out side of our lines. It is reported this morning that Gen'l Pillow is in command of the rebel force just out side of town. I dont know how that is but he is some bold fellow. Gen'l Veatch has not force enough here to risk a battle by marchin out to meet them. Genl Dodge will be here soo with a large force and then the Rebs must fight or run.

I was not in the hospital at all but had the best kind of care in a private house all the time I was sick. I am well and stout as before I went north. Write how Charley is often.

Your Brother

JS Reynolds

Direct-via Nashville Tenn

36

Decatur Ala.
April 29th 1864

Sister Lottie,

I've just rec'd your letter and am very glad to hear the boys are better. I have writting all day on pay rolls and Reports Sunday morning at day Break we start out. A large force is going and carry nothing but one change of under clothes. We expect to be on the road about thirty days. I am in tip top condition for marching. I have not a single sick man in my company. There is some sickness in the new companies but not much. I have packed a box to send to Joliet by Express directed to I L Renolds write me often. I'll get the letters. I will not have time to write Sarah before we start.

Your Broth

JSReynolds

Van Wirt Ga
May 25/64 37

A portion of our army is making another flank move. We marched night before last till after midnight, rested 4 hours then made a march of 21 miles to this town. We move again this morning and will reach Dallas tonight. Maryetta will be our next point but it cannot be gained without hard fighting. We are now thirty miles almost due south of Gen Joe Johnsons main force which is at Altoona. He will have to retreat in haste else fight our army from both north and south. This expedition is without any communication with any other part of our army on the north and will be for some time. We have plenty of ammunition and twenty days rations and forty thousand fighting men. This is a splendid country, abounding with immense fieldsof growing corn and wheat, but no cotton. Not an able bodied white or black man is to be seen. The thousands who worked the fields are fleeing before the union army. We hear not a word from Gen Grant. Last night I saw Jno H Miller of the Chi Tribune Rust who was local Editor of the Times while I was north is with us He writes for Cincinatti papers. My health is excellent.

Your Broth

J.S.R.

Capt J.S. Reynold
" S P Holder scrawled on the back in different handwriting

Pencil

38

Near Dallas Ga May 31 1864

Dear Sister Lottie,

I have written to Charles every opportunity because letters directed to the Land Office will not be so likely to be thrown aside. I stand it first rate but my men are giving out fast under the hardships. Denny was taken very sick this afternoon. Dalton and Farrows of H.JI sent to the rear today sick. We are up so much nights and the days are so hot that we cannot get rest.

Last night after dark our Reg. was relieved from the front line and we are now in the second line about a thousand yards from the enemy's works. The enemy has used very little artillery until this afternoon and now they have some heavy guns at work

You have heard of Abram Wagners death I suppose before this. "A" and "F" were driving the enemy up a steep hill and "F" had almost gained the top of the hill in its front under a heavy fire when he was shot through the head and instantly killed He fell close beside a dead Rebel. He was among the foremost , loading and firing with all his energy. This was on the 27th inst and that day "F" had 4 killed and 3 wounded and "A" 3 killed and 3 wounded. Both Cos were under my command after Capt Conger was wounded. Capt Logan is wounded and gone back to Kingston Our Reg has lost in killed and wounded about fifty men since we left Chattanooga. It was expected that our men would charge the enemy's works this afternoon. The men keep their cartridge boxes on and their guns stacked in line all the time. I think we will move into the front line again tonight. Ward and Scheel keep well. Please send me the Joliet Republican when convenient. We get mail now seldom but it will be so that it will come more regular soon.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Marietta Ga.
July 12th 1864

rother Charles

I have had to give up at last. Sixty-six days of marching and fighting I stood but the sixty seventh was one too many for me. I left the regiment on the fifth when it was fourteen miles south east of here. Gen Dodge since has been ordered to the left and he marched to the river fifteen miles north west of here and crossed. When I left it was the impression that the fighting was done for thesummer for it was believed Johnson was falling back past Atlanta toward Macon. If he does stop this side of Atlanta it will be a short job to flank him out of it. I have now the intermitent fever. Of mornings I feel pretty well but afternoons and nights have fever. The dysentery is not entirely cured on me. The Dr Says he will have the fever broken in a day or two and then I will feel much better. We have a very pleasant place here. There are eighteen officers here now and the house is large and cool. Albert Ashly is with me. Tell the folks not to be the least might uneasy about me for I will soon be all right again and with the regiment. I wrote Sarah I believe about the fight of the 27th On the night of the 2nd the old first Division was called on to go out and cover the withdrawal of the 16th A.C. which would move off to the right just before day light the next morning and evacuate the position in front of Kenesaw Mt. Our division went out and just about the time they expected to receive notice tofall back we heard the rebs making their way out of their works. we knew then that they were evacuating and sent word to Gen'l Fuller. He sent word back for us to move to the top of the mountain. When the order was given to forward there was some tall climbing between A and F to see which would be first on the top. Co "F" come out ahead and it was just day break when we reached the top and in a few moments our regimental flag in the hands of Lt Ward Knickerbocker was floating from the top of Kenesaw Mountain. The 26th Ills Flag was up about ten minutes after ours. On the third we marched twelve miles to the right and on thefourth we came up with the enemy where the 2nd Division 16th A.C. had been stopped for a day and a half. Our reg was deployed as skermishers and the rest of the Brigade formed in line of battle. At the word forward our regiment started and soon had the rebs on the retreat and we kept them so until theywere driven into their main works. Our work was then done and the line of battle which had been following us came up, passed our line and charged and captured the works. Our men fell fast for a moment then it was hand to hand work for an instant and then all was over. Our Reg is but a hand full to what itwas when we started. Twice in one week we received the special commendation of Genl Dodge.

Your Brother

JB Reynolds

Near Galesville Ga Oct 24/64 40

Dear Sister

I have just written to Charles. I am in tip top health. We have slept out of doors every night since the 12th. We have not a sign of tent with us and sleep with my feet to the fire and sleep good too. Of a night the coon and fox run around our fire as though they were at home. Ward and I have our nest in the woods on a side hill and the Reg is about twenty rods off. Last night a coon or wild cat jumped off a tree about a rod from our heads and trailed around us. We both got up and looked after the Gentleman but he kept out of our way. We dare not shoot our revolvers for it would alarm the camp. Ward said <u>damn</u> the things why cant they let us sleep. We sat up in bed awhile with some rocks in our hands but he would not come near enough while we were awake. We will rest here a day or two yet. I have made most all my accounts out. Ward and Billy and all the boys are well. I expect I will see Park tomorrow

Write often we have not had mail but once yet

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Dear

Near Cave Springs
Oct 31 1864

41

Dear Sister,

I'll have time to write a few words tonight. We reached this place last night and have been resting today. Tomorrow we start on a long raid, so says our Brigade commander. We are now 16 miles from Rome Ga. Col Morrell arrived here today. His arm is dead. He has no use of it. He is ordered to report to Maj. Genl. Dodge will be his Chief of Staff. I have been getting fat every day since I joined the Regiment. Capt Conger is dead. He is the one that stands beside me in that group picture. He lived two days after he was shot.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

42

Near Marietta Ga
Nov 10/64

Brother Charles

I have time but for a word. We have just got the Reg Clother all paid and we start again tomorrow for a long march. Gen Sherman says it will be the grandest move of the war. I have command of the old 64th Ills and will during the trip. I am well and feel tip top at the head of so noble a Regiment. Col Manning goes north today.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

Original Pencil

Savannah Ga. Dec. 28th 1864 43

Dear Sister

It is about time I was writing to you. We have been in this camp four days but every moment was taken up with work that could not be postponed. We have moved once since I wrote Charles and are now camped one half mile from the celebrated Boneventura, which affords the most beautiful scenery in America and some travelers say in the world. It is truly magnificent. Such enormous trees-live oaks- and every one draped with tillandsia. Mr Mackay the English Poet in his "Life and Liberty in America" describes it well. Yesterday I was down to Maj Genl Mower's HD. Qrs. which are at Thunderbolt on Warsaw Sound, and several of our Monitors were there. Today the 17th AC was paraded in the streets of Savannah for Review by Genl Sherman but we had hardly got our places along the line when it commenced raining very hard and we were ordered back to camp. The 64th Ill never looked better or marched better than they did today though we have not drawn one single article of clothing for the men since we left Atlanta and have drawn only two days rations of Hard Bread or flour since we reached this place. The Ships are very slow and if we depended on the Navy to end this war it would never be done. Savannah is all that the Tourists have pictured it in books. It shows its age and one would think it even older than the days of Genl Oglethorpe. The monument of Count Pulaski is one of its attractions and you cannot go on any street but what you will see parks. One of the chief attractions now is the fortifications of the town and river. Many pieces of artillery both light and heavy- stand in every work of defense around the city just as they were in use by the enemy From thirt to forty thousand bales of cotton were left in the city and any amount of tobacco and munitions of war.

The citizens say their soldiers did not fera the Gun Boats or Gene Foster but they wanted to be off when they heard Gen Sherman was coming William Scheel left for home several days ago you will probably see him before you get this. Ward is going home soon. We have got but one mail since we arrived here.

I have not been sick a day since I joined the Regiment this last time. Every one is healthy down here now. I expect to get a bushel of letters next mail.

But has Pa done with my horse? I have two very good horses here. Col Manning promised me his horse if he left the service this winter. He has not yet returned. His horse is a perfect peacock and I ride him on extra occasions since I have commanded the Regiment.

Your Brother

JSReynolds

I wrote this in a great hurry

Pocotatigo S.C.
Jan'y 20th 1865

Sister Lottie,

No letters yet from home. I have rec'd only one letter from any of my folks since November 15th 1864 and that was from Charles. Yesterday I rec'd a letter from Capt Pomeroy of Chicago dated Jany 4th/65 so you see they come if sent. We are likely to lay here several days yet before starting for Charleston. The rebs are awful spiteful they say they'll fight till the last man of them is killed All right, we can accommodate them. If they hate us too much to live we will satisfy them while we are in the business. The day after we arrived here a foraging party went out from our Brigade and when four miles out some Johnies fired on our men just as they were approaching a most splendid House and Cotton Mills Barns & Co. The house had three nice pianoes, Sewing machines beautiful furniture a very large library in fact the most costly fitted up house I ever saw- and this with every building on the plantation was burned to the ground. It is Genl Sherman's order to burn every building where our men are fired upon. We have heard nothing of Col. Manning yet. At Division Hd. Qrs. yesterday they heard that I had been commissioned Maj of our Regiment, and last night the Division Band gave me a fine serenade. During the early part of the evening one of the Band came down and told the Corporal of the Guard to have a good big fire in front of my tent at eleven at night but say nothing to me about it. I was sound asleep and the first thing I heard was beautiful music I thought at first it was a dream. There are eighteen members of the band and they have violins flutes guitars and horns. When I got up and opened my tent they were all standing in a semicircle in front of the tent and a big fire blazing which made it light as day. They played till twelve then all took a drink and dispersed. I never heard better music. The night was still and could not have been better for the occasion. When we were at Pulaski ther was a similar band but not so large as this. I still command the Regiment. Since we arrived at Beaufort we have had drill and dress parade every day when we have not been marching.

I expect Wars is at home by this time. If you see him tell him to write how it seems to get home a citizen once more.

Your Brother,
J S Reynolds

45

Pocotatigo S.C.
Jan'y 28th/65

Dear Sister Sarah

We have rec'd two large mails since yesterday morning and I got several letters from home including one from you. This is the first time I heard from Home direct since we reached the coast. You do not know how glad I was to get them. I also received one from Lt. Col. Manning tonight He was in New York when he wrote and said he would be here next week with his Rifles. It has been very rainy for a week past and the Army cannot move. If possible this army will start northward by land next Monday. Gen Sherman says he will be at his journeys end in ten days from time of starting, Charleston is his destination from appearances now. Day before yesterday our Division was out again and drove the enemy across the Saskehatchie. When we reached the river fourteen men with Henry Rifles of our Regiment went in a boat and crossed to within fifty feet of the enemy's fort and captured a Capt of the Artillery and two of his men. The troops in any number could not cross on account of the river being so much overflowed. We got back to camp at midnight. It was the coldest day we have had and the men suffered from having to wade so much in water. All tents have been ordered back except one for each General. We are going fast when we do go and live out of doors entirely

I was never healthier in my life. Riding horseback agrees with me better than going afoot. The troops drill every day we lay still. today our General (Fuller) had Brigade drill and I have no trouble in handling the Regiment under any circumstances. When part of the Regiment is deployed as skermishers and part in line of battle I have to stir myself____

Tell Birdie to stop growing. She must not get so tall as to oblige to stoop in order to pass through the doors.

I would like to see Deacon Bill. Is he as odd as ever? What is he studying. Tell him and Birdie to write to me

Your Brother

J S Reynolds

Hd Qrs. 64 Ill. Infty, Vet. Val.
Salkhatchie River S.C. Jany 31" 1865

Dear Sister

We are off again. The 14" and 20" Corps have not yet come up and Gen. Howard is today waiting for them. The weather is beautiful now. We have only tent flies. Dont you think we are hardy fellows to live this way in mid-winter. We are camped today in a beautiful woods--green woods at that. You ought to see the Hd Qrs of the 64" Ill In the center is my fly with desk under it where I am writing. first on the right is the Adjt's fly, next to him is the Quarter Master's fly. then first on my left is our Chaplains little "dog" tent and next him is our two surgeons fly. These are in line and face the same way with fires in front of them all and a guard walking regularly in front of my quarters. The officers around me are all first class men. Our Chaplain is one of the best of men-he is a thorough scholar. One of our surgeons is a young German, educated in the old Country. His name is Rösch and his father is the most celebrated surgeon of Hamburg, Germany. The Adjutant is a brother to Ames the banker in Ottowa and knows his business. Lt. Yates the Gov's boy as we call him is with us just like old Dick. We have in the Regiment a Sergt. a fellow by the name of Colesbury who is a brother-in-law of L. Thomas Adjt Gen. of the U.S. There are in this Regiment a good many men in excellent standing at home I wrote Hattie just before we left Pocatatigo. I will not have another chance of writing till we reach a new base. I am tip top.

Write often so I will get some letters when we strike landing again

Your Brother JSReynolds

This will be sent by a messenger to Hilton Head

Goldsboror N C
March 20th 1865

47

y dear Sister

I have rec'd just bushels of letters of late but have answered only one of Charles' Am very busy. The Reg. was destitute of clothing and all reports were neglected till we reached this place and every moment is occupied in putting things aright. At Cheraw our Adjt was detailed as Genl Fuller's Adjt Genl. and our acting Adjt. is not very well posted so that I have to more closely superintend his work. Near one hundred men of our Reg were waiting for us at this place. They had been left back sick and most of them were in the Nashville fight and also the Kinston engagement. Several of the 64th were killed and wounded in each engagement. Hattie what do you think of men marching two hundred miles barefooted. Two hundred miles from this place we had eighteen barefooted men and the day we reached this place one hundred and sixteen men of our Reg. were entirely destitute of shoes and stockings. On the 20th of this month these same men marched over twenty miles and besides skermished through a swamp three miles wide and I did not hear a murmer from a single man. On the 21st our Reg. was deployed as skermishers in front of our division and when we went for the Johnnies no one thought of his bare feet. It was high sport for our skermishers so long as we kept the Rebs running but when they flanked us and commenced charging it was another thing. We saw Gen Joe Johnson mount his horse and scamper off as we approached his Hd Qrs. Our line reached Johnson's Hd Qrs before I ordered a retreat. It was pretty warm work till we reached our support. The move of the Div was only a reconnoissance in the rear of Johnsons army. Our Reg was thanked by Maj Gen Mower in person for their conduct that day and the General made me a present of a valuable French Stallion which I captured in the fight. He is the best horse in the Division

I am in the best of health.

Your Brother

J Reynolds

Our ch plain has sent a communication to the Advocate

Hd. Qrs. 64th Ills.
10 miles West of Raleigh N.C.
April 26th 1865

ister Hattie,

Day before yesterday our Corps was reviewed by Generals Grant and Sherman and yesterday morning we took up our line of march for Johnson's army. It was understood that the Army of the Tennessee would move out only ten miles and there wait till Gen Sherman could have another conference with Johnson. Gen Sherman is now at the front and he and Johnson are together. Tonight we will probably know whether we are to fight it out or not. This army would receive orders to move out and attack Johnston with loud cheers. It wants Davis and Breckenridge hung and all the rebel leaders punished, not pardoned. Every body here in the army was rejoiced to hear that President Johnson would have rebels leaders punished and not pardoned. If the South will not give up her leaders to be punished let our armies take possession of every town in the south and hunt them out. It would be much better to continue the war a few monthes longer now and wipe out every stain of secession than to leave the men and material in the south who would in less than ten years be back on their old track abusing northern men and hatching up another rebellion.

All is going nicely. I am well as ever.

Your Brother

J3Reynolds

At the review my fine horse and the Henry Rifles, which is a beautiful gun, and with which our Regt. is armed attracted much attention.)

49

Louisville Ky
June 25/65

ear Sister Hattie

I have been expecting to go home every day for a we k, but now I cant tell when I will get there. Order after order are coming as to who will be mustered out but they all miss us as yet. We have a mighty nice camp here and plenty to eat. Am healthy and fat.

Your Brother

JS Reynolds

Hattie, I bought a horse yesterday and the prettiest horse to ride you ever saw. I have three(3) horses now in the army

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

Photograph

P-5060/1

#5060-z
JOSEPH S. REYNOLDS PAPERS

Photograph

P-5060/1

perena cas

SF-P-5060

Ambrotype

Reynolds

These items were not filmed:

MU-5060/1: Gutta-percha case

SF-P-5060/1: Ambrotype of Joseph Reynolds

200 mm

150 mm

100 mm

A3

A4

A5

1.0

1.1

1.25

1.4

1.6

1.8

2.0

2.2

2.5

2.8

3.2

3.6

4.0

4.5

5.0

5.6

6.3

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890

1.0 mm

1.5 mm

2.0 mm

2.5 mm

PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS

A & P INTERNATIONAL
715/262-5788 FAX 262-3823
577 LOCUST ST.
PRESCOTT, WI 54021

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890

4.5 mm

JOS

PA

PM-MGP
METRIC GENERAL PURPOSE TARGET
PHOTOGRAPHIC
1.5 mm
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890

END OF REEL

PLEASE REWIN